Bill to save blighted properties within villages from foreclosure tabled. PAGE 2
HANMI occupancy at 35% in April 2024. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

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Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 104

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The spot in As Teo Drive corner Chalan Santa Lourdes, where sisters Maleina and Faloma Luhk were reportedly last seen waiting for a school bus in the morning of May 25, 2011. A makeshift shrine that the family built on the area to offer prayers for the sisters was no longer there when *Saipan Tribune* took this photo last Wednesday. Tomorrow, Saturday, marks the 13th year of the sisters' mysterious disappearance, yet there is still no clue on their whereabouts.

AS TRAGEDY MARKS 13TH YEAR

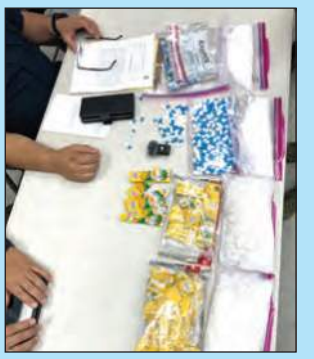
Luhk sisters' disappearance still baffles FBI, DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow, Saturday, marks the 13th year when sisters Maleina and Faloma Q. Luhk mysteriously disappeared while waiting for a school bus near their residence in As Teo, yet there's still no trace of their whereabouts.

See LUHK on Page 4

Customs so far intercepted over $1M worth of meth this year



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity intercepted last week about $300,000 worth of methamphetamine (about 2.9 lbs.) that was imported through the United Parcel Service disguised as vitamins.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mafnas

The year may not be over yet but since January, the Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity has intercepted over $1 million worth of methamphetamine at the CNMI's borders.

According to Customs and Biosecurity Director

See METH on Page 4

CEC to start voter registration drive on Saipan starting June 1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Commonwealth Election Commission Office in Susupe.

The Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a voter registration drive on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in preparation for the Nov. 5, 2024 general election.

According to the CEC yesterday, acceptance of nominating petition of candidacy will also be conducted on Tinian and Rota on July 8 and 9.

CEC administrative officer Ambrosio Lisua said they will issue a separate announcement regarding acceptance of nominating petition of candidacy on Saipan because they

See CEC on Page 4

Cavanagh

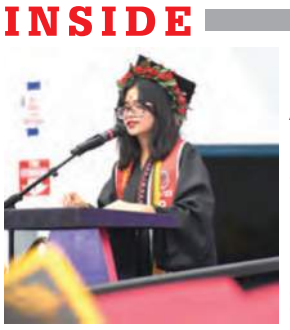
MVA in support of PH addition to Guam/CNMI visa waiver program

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority says it is in support of the Philippine Congress' efforts to include the Philippines in the existing Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

See MVA on Page 4

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

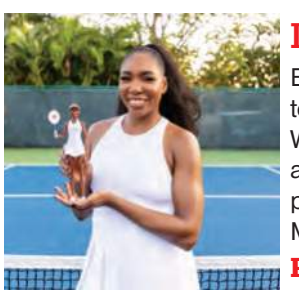
As the Class of 2024 prepares to cross the stage and receive their diplomas, it is the perfect moment to reflect on their unique journey.

PAGE 10

BUSINESS

New Mirage Spa along what used to be the Paseo de Marianas is under new management and reopened last May 18.

PAGE 22



LIFE & STYLE

Barbie dolls will honor tennis champion Venus Williams and eight other athletes as part of a project announced by Mattel on Wednesday.

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Local

Bill to save blighted properties within villages from foreclosure tabled

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation standing committee on Zoning tabled last Tuesday legislation authored by Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan) that seeks to save blighted properties within villages from foreclosure.

Last Tuesday, SNILD standing committee on Zoning members unanimously decided to table senate local bill 23-03 authored by Sen. Magofna.

According to committee chair Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), the committee tabled the legislation to allow Zoning to review the bill in its entirety in order to provide their comments.

"The Zoning administrator asked for an extension to give a public comment, we were supposed to act on it today but since she needs more time and zoning board members need to review the bill, we had to table it for now. We will be acting on it in the future," he said.

Another hearing on the matter will be held in the next week or two.

In an interview with the bill's author, Magofna, she explains that it is crucial at this time for this bill to be pushed forward to save homeowners from possible foreclosures should Zoning assess their homes and deem them blighted properties.

"I think this legislation, which would amend existing Public Law 20-25, is so crucial right in our economic situation and the financial state we are in. Our island is suffering, and majority of our people cannot afford to pay their bills, how much more Zoning penalties. I saw this and I feel the need to limit the scope of the law itself. The amendment [proposed] is primarily to focus Zoning's enforcement on the main roads across the island. This is because most of the properties along the main roads are being leased by businesses and foreign investors. In addition, its the most visible to our visitors. My bill would focus on blighted properties along main roads across the island and not blighted properties within villages," she said.

Existing Public Law 20-25, introduced by former lawmaker Larry Deleon Guerrero, which was inacted in 2018 was established to combat the increase of blighted properties on the island. Regarding this, Magofna believes the law has good intentions.

"The original bill is related to blighted properties and it was passed to combat the increase of blighted properties and really provide a better appearance for our island for our tourists and for the safety of our people. These blighted properties are usually abandoned and is a breeding ground for crime and pests and its not healthy for our community. These properties are also unsightly. If we want to project our island as a world-class destination, we have to clean up our island especially along the main highways as its very visible for our guests," she said.

However, Magofna believes certain provision should be amended to ensure that locals don't lose their properties should they not have the means to comply with zoning requirements.

"My legislation is to amend certain provisions on that bill for many reasons; Primarily for me, I wanted to amend the existing law to limit some of the scope of work because if you read the law, it greatly affects our people. It talks about properties that are not being maintained. Under this law, Zoning can actually issue citations, assess penalty fees, and if they are not able to collect from the property owners, then they can actually put a lien on the property and if that lien is not resolved, Zoning can foreclose on the property. I would really hate for our people to lose their property because they simply can't afford it. This defeats the purpose of Article 12," she said.

Another amendment Magofna's bill intends to make is to allow for blighted properties that are under a lease, to be reverted back to the original owner.

"Under this bill, If the property hasn't been improved or maintained in five consecutive years, it would automatically go back to its original owner. Again, this is another way to give back to our people who have leased their properties to investors as those blighted properties are untouchable. This bill isn't only to protect our people from foreclosures, but to give back to the land owners as well," she said.

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HANMI occupancy at 35% in April 2024

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 35% average occupancy rate among its 13 member hotels for April 2024, a 9% increase compared to 32% average occupancy among 11 hotels in April 2023

A total of 25,203 of 72,848 available room nights sold during April 2024 compared to 19,821 of 62,542 available rooms sold in April 2023. The average room rate was $122.12 compared to $132.79 last April.

"The overall economy is facing a critical challenge due to the slow recovery of the tourism industry, including the hotel sector, caused by the lack of diversity in tourism market sources," said HANMI chair Dennis Seo. "As we are aware, Korea is currently dominating the Marianas tourism market, while the Japanese market is showing limited recovery at this time. The Chinese market, which accoutered for 39% of the market share pre-COVID-19, is largely absent."

"The Korean market has recovered to 70-80% of its pre-COVID-19 level, but no one knows how sustainable this market will remain," Seo cautions. "It is now said that the domestic economy in Korea is stagnant, and consumer sentiment is deteriorating. People are cutting down on eating out and reducing discretionary spending, including travel."

As shown in the drop of the average room rate by $10.68 compared to April 2023, ongoing competition with other beach destinations like Guam, Thailand, and the Philippines and the current exchange rate is negatively affecting both bookings and room rates in the Marianas. As the U.S. dollar continues to strengthen, Koreans are now preferring more cost-effective destinations such as Japan, Vietnam, and Thailand where the Korean won is stronger. Japanese outbound tourism is showing a similar trend of traveling more to Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, and other destinations in East Asia. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

'IPI bankruptcy stay inapplicable in IPI liquor theft case'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
Chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

U.S. District Court of the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona determined that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's automatic bankruptcy stay does not apply to a civil contempt proceeding involving stolen liquor bottles.

In an order released last Wednesday, Manglona said the court's decision was based on two key factors. Firstly, at the time of the bankruptcy filing, the stolen liquor was no longer part of IPI's debtor estate as it had been sold to a buyer. Secondly, the contempt proceedings served the public policy interest of deterring litigation misconduct, falling within the exemption of the public policy test.

"The court finds that the automatic bankruptcy stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) does not apply to the contempt proceedings. The court has a public policy interest in identifying who committed the theft of the sold liquor subject to the court's receivership order, and ascertaining the veracity of IPI's defense that it was the limited receiver that either breached the court's receivership order or worse, committed a fraud on the court," the ruling stated.

Manglona said the ruling highlights the court's commitment to upholding public policy and deterring misconduct in litigation, underscoring the importance of regulatory compliance in such cases.

The dispute over the stolen liquor arose from a petition filed by Joshua Gray against IPI and its executive director, Howyo Chi.

Gray, a former director of operations at the Saipan casino, had successfully sued IPI for racial discrimination and wrongful termination and received $5 million in compensation.

His petition sought several measures, including holding IPI and Chi in contempt, compensation for stolen liquor, a daily fine of $10,000 for non-compliance, and attorneys' fees. Despite IPI's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and assertion of an automatic stay, the court found that the contempt proceedings fell outside the scope of the stay.

The ruling stemmed from events dating back to October 2023 when Clear Management Limited was appointed as the limited receiver for the sale of IPI's personal property, including liquor inventory. Gray's petition alleged that IPI failed to ensure adequate security for the liquor, resulting in theft. However, IPI contended that responsibility lay with the limited receiver.

CEC

From page 1

will be accepting petitions at their office and not at the registration drive locations.

Lisua also disclosed that as of yesterday, there was an overall total of 17,877 registered voters in the CNMI.

CEC record shows that Saipan and Northern Islands have 14,643 registered voters, Tinian has 1,540, while Rota has 1,694.

On Saipan, the voter registration drive will be on June 1 at the Kagman Community Center, June 8 at the Tanapag Youth Center, June 15 at the San Vicente Youth Center and Koblerville Youth Center, and on June 22 at the Carolinian Affairs Office. Registration will be held from 8:30am to 1:30pm.

On Tinian, the voter registration drive and acceptance of nominating petition of candidacy will be conducted on July 8 to 9 at the Tinian Public Library from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

On Rota, the voter registration drive and acceptance of nominating petition of candidacy will be conducted on July 8 and 9 at the Rota Man Amko Center from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Candidates from recognized parties Republican/Democratic submitting nominating petitions must provide certification of nomination by a recognized political party, candidacy certification, waiver, candidate's committee organizational report, original payment receipt, and petition signatures.

CEC said candidates from independent/non-partisan submitting nominating petitions must provide candidacy certification, waiver, candidates committee organizational report, original payment receipt, and petitions. CEC said "a person is eligible to vote who, on Nov. 5, 2024, is 18 years of age or older, is a domiciled in the Commonwealth, has resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the day of the elections, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution."

CEC said previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2020 and 2022 general election must re-register to be eligible to vote in the 2024 general election.

For first time voters, they must provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as valid U.S. passport or birth certificate, or mayor's identification card.

CEC encouraged anyone requiring voter registration information to call its office at 670-235-8683 (VOTE) or email at cec@votecnmi.gov.mp.

METH

From page 1

Jose Mafnas, from January up to this week, about 15 lbs. of methamphetamine (or a little over 6,800 grams) was intercepted at the islands' borders.

These drugs are usually concealed as packages and are smuggled in through the U.S. Postal Service.

With the street value at around $160 per gram, 15 lbs. of methamphetamine is equivalent to a little over $1 million.

Mafnas shared that the price per gram has gone down which could mean sellers are providing discounts or there is a high supply of methamphetamine on island.

Whatever the case, Mafnas said with the rebirth of the Drug Enforcement Taskforce—which includes agencies like the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security, Drug Enforcement Agency, and more—the battle against illegal drugs in the CNMI continues.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Customs and Biosecurity intercepted last week about $300,000 worth of methamphetamine that was imported through the United Parcel Service disguised as vitamins.

Mafnas, along with other members of the Drug Enforcement Taskforce, held a press conference last Monday to inform the public that about $300,000 worth of meth (or about 2.9 lbs.) was intercepted last May 14 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's cargo area.

These drugs, Mafnas shared, were strategically disguised as packets of powdered vitamin C as well as multivitamin capsules hidden inside One-A-Day vitamin bottles that were sealed to look as if they were unopened.

LUHK

From page 1

Saipan Tribune visited Wednesday the spot in Santa Lourdes Road corner As Teo Drive, where the Luhk sisters were reportedly last seen at a bus stop waiting for a school bus in the morning of May 25, 2011. A makeshift shrine that the family of the sisters had built on the spot to offer prayers for them, was no longer there.

Maleina and Faloma were 9 and 10 years old at the time, respectively. Now, Maleina would have been 22 years old and Faloma 23.

The Luhk sisters' grandfather, Elbert Quitugua, who had been taking care of the sisters at the time, declined yesterday *Saipan Tribune*'s request for an interview, saying they need to be private with their families.

Quitugua, however, advised *Saipan Tribune* to check out the Federal Bureau of Investigation for information.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from the FBI.

The FBI is offering a reward of up to $25,000 for information that will lead to the sisters' whereabouts.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony I. Macaranas said in an interview last week that it is his understanding that the case is still open.

"We're still open for any information that comes in," Macaranas said.

The commissioner said once they receive information, they will investigate or follow up on the case.

The FBI has been working with DPS for the past decade now to find the missing girls.

Maleina was last seen wearing a white blouse and blue jeans. She has a birthmark on her left cheek.

Faloma was last seen wearing a light green shirt with a butterfly design and blue jeans.

The sisters' disappearance triggered an island-wide search for a month by federal and local enforcement agencies, including the FBI. Many volunteers in the community also joined in the search.

A helicopter from the U.S. Navy and a C-130 plane from the U.S. Air Force also participated in the search. The Hawaii's State Civil Defense even sent its tracking dog to the island.

Federal and local enforcers scoured for a week a garbage heap at the Marpi landfill to look for clues, particularly the girls' school bags.

MVA

From page 1

For the last two years, the Philippine Congress has been working on legislation that essentially enlists the help of the U.S Department of Foreign Affairs to get the United States of America to authorize the inclusion of the Philippines in the existing Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

The Philippine Senate introduced its resolution back in 2023 (which remains pending) while the Philippine House of Representatives introduced its own resolution back in 2022.

The Philippine House of Representatives last Wednesday unanimously adopted House resolution 332 essentially urging the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs to request U.S. president Joseph Biden include the Philippines in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

In a statement from MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh, MVA is in support of these efforts.

"We are very much in support of these efforts to add the Philippines to the Guam/CNMI VWP. The efforts to add any additional market to our area is welcome. There are also many people in the Philippines that have the means to travel, it is a very viable market for us," she said.

Cavanagh noted that not only would the inclusion of the Philippines bring in a new tourist market for the Marianas, but it would also be more convenient for visiting Philippine nationals who have family in both Guam and the CNMI.

"We, as in Guam, have a large population of Filipinos. This would make it easier for families to visit. With the approval of this, there would be hopes of getting direct flights from the Philippines that will also benefit our residents who want to travel to visit family, for medical referrals and for vacations. So, it would work both ways. The Philippines is a favorite of our people to vacation," she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Guam Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua F. Tenorio made a request to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden to include the Philippines in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program as an item agenda at the Trilateral Leaders' Summit on April 11, 2024.

"We both recognize the invaluable contributions made by Filipinos to our communities, which are vital in strengthening our diverse cultural tapestry and our ties with the broader Pacific region," said Leon Guerrero and Tenorio in a letter to Biden.

Leon Guerrero and Tenorio noted that in U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's recent trip to the Philippines, he and Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo underscored the importance of their shared priorities for economic growth and cooperation.

They said expanding the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program by including the Philippines would support these efforts.

BOG alerts customers to recent vishing, phishing scheme

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is alerting all customers to a recent vishing and phishing scheme. Vishing, or voice phishing, involves fraudulent phone calls designed to deceive individuals into disclosing sensitive personal and financial information.

Fraudulent callers are using sophisticated technology to spoof Bank of Guam's main customer service line, making it appear as if the fraudster's call is coming from the bank's telephone number, (671) 472-5300.

With phishing, bad actors pretend to be from the bank by using email addresses that are very similar to legitimate Bank email addresses.

These imposters may ask for personal information such as account numbers, passwords, Social Security numbers, and other sensitive data. They often create a sense of urgency or threaten negative consequences, such as account suspension, to pressure victims into compliance.

Customers are reminded that Bank of Guam will never ask you for account details or private information over the phone or email unless the customer initiates the communication. Bank of Guam will also never ask you to validate your personal information outside of our secure channels. To protect yourself from vishing or phishing scams and other fraudulent activities, here are some best practices to remember:

■ Be vigilant: Always be cautious when receiving unsolicited phone calls or emails asking for personal information.

■ Verify calls: If you receive a call purporting to be from Bank of Guam, do not provide any personal information. Instead, hang up and call customer service directly at (671) 472-5300 to verify the call.

■ Beware of unsolicited, suspicious emails: Be cautious of emails that appear to look like they come from the Bank. Make sure to verify the sender address to determine if it's legitimate. If it looks suspicious, do not click on any links or open any attachments. Delete the message and empty your trash folder.

■ Report suspicious activity: Report any suspicious calls or emails to the Bank immediately to ensure these activities are tracked and handled timely.

■ Protect personal information: Never share personal or financial information over email or phone unless you are certain of the caller's identity.

■ Monitor your accounts: Check your accounts regularly and report any unauthorized activity immediately to the bank.

"Safeguarding our customers' information is a top priority, as is ensuring our systems are secure and our teams are trained to identify, mitigate and report these types of events quickly. We encourage all our customers to continue to remain vigilant, monitor your account transactions regularly and always remember, the Bank will never call you and ask you to provide your account information," said Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin P. L.G. Cook.

Bank of Guam has reported this vishing and phishing scheme to the local FBI office and is working closely with law enforcement to address and mitigate these fraudulent activities. For more information on how to protect yourself from fraud, please visit https://www.fbi.gov/how. ***(PR)***

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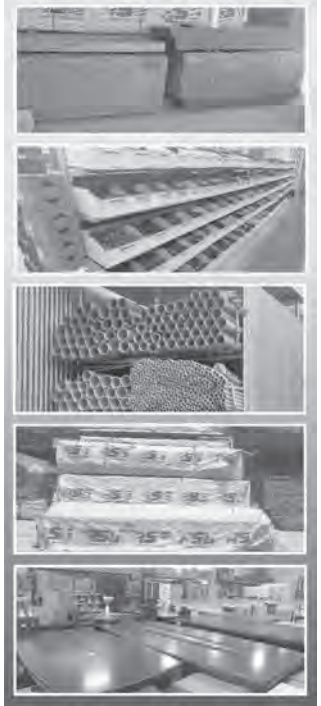
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The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

WIC CNMI
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP. • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
GIVE YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY START

How can WIC help my family?
• Nutrition counseling
• Breastfeeding support
• Healthy foods
• Referrals
Who is eligible?
• Pregnant/Breastfeeding/Postpartum women (up to 1 year)
• Infants
• Children under the age of five (5)
• Meet nutritional risk and financial guidelines. (See table below)
A pregnant woman is considered two (2) family members!
WIC Income Eligibility Table by Family Size (Effective May 1, 2024)

Family members in household	Yearly household income	Monthly household income	Twice-Monthly household income	Bi-Weekly household income	Weekly household income
1	$27,861	$2,322	$1,161	$1,072	$536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each additional member add	+$9,953	+$830	+$415	+$383	+$192

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS income, meaning before taxes or other deductions. A person or certain family members who participate in other benefit programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.
Call us at (670) 664-4084 or (670) 236-8741 to make an appointment!
www.chcc.health
This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2024 Liberation Day begins June 15

Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho and the 2024 Liberation Day Committee are pleased to announce that Liberation Day festivities will run from June 15 to July 6.

The carnival grounds are located at the Garapan Fishing Base and will be in operation on Fridays and Saturdays from 6pm to 11pm. On Sundays the carnival will operate from 6pm to 10pm.

The Saipan Mayor's Office welcomes the community to participate as food, games, retail vendors, and concessionaires. The deadline for application is May 31.

The July 4 Liberation Day Parade starts at National Office Supply and heads north to Garapan Fishing Base. Interested parties must apply to participate in the float competition by June 14 at 4pm at the latest. The four float competition categories are: school, precinct, business, and non-profit. The grand prize for the float competition is $5,000.

Applications for both the parade and the vendors/concessionaires are available at the Saipan Mayor's Office or online at https://saipanmayor.cnmi.gov/services/liberation-day-committee/ For assistance regarding parade and vendor applications, call (670) 234-6208.

Aside from the fun and games of the Liberation Festivities, three young island women are vying for the title of Liberation Day Queen. The contestants in this year's Liberation Day Royal Court are Chariane Cabrera Dabney, Xeayda Manglona, and Nakisha Celis.

Dabney, a 17-year-old from Capital Hill who will graduate from Kagman High School at the end of this month, said she wants the experience of the Liberation Royal Court to be her first taste of pageantry.

"I think this experience will prepare me for the future, knowing that I would like to participate in the Miss Marianas pageant," Dabney said.

Manglona, a 19-year-old University of Guam student and president of a student organization comprising CNMI students at UOG, is the candidate from Rota.

"It's all about representation for me," Manglona said. "Since we're so small a lot of the youth on Rota think we can't do the same as the other islands and I really want to change that image."

As for Celis, a 17-year-old Saipan Southern High School student, she said the experience is about personal growth.

"I joined to be able to experience it, knowing it's my first time. I want to get out of my comfort zone and encourage others to join as well," Celis said.

Bridget Maratita- Deleon Guerrero, the Liberation Day Committee for Parade chair, said that aside from the opportunity to be the Liberation Queen and participate in this year's Liberation Day parade, the winning candidate will travel to Guam to participate in the Liberation Day festivities there in late July and to participate in on-island and off-island activities. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1178 Hinemlu' St., Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
WIC CNMI
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office located on Upper Navy Hill, 11546 Isla Drive. The application acceptance period is from May 1, 2024 through June 14, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or vendors may request for an application through email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.
Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, June 14, 2024.
Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.
Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Program Coordinator, at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.
PO BOX 502509, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 664-4067 Fax: (670) 664-4069
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JOETEN 4-DAY MEMORIAL DAY SALE

FRIDAY TO MONDAY, MAY 24 TO 27, 2024

US CHICKEN THIGH QUARTERS 22 LBS $14.75/cs.

US PORK SPARERIBS 20 LBS $22.75/cs.

US PORK BELLY FAMILY BAG 6 LBS $19.75

NEW ZEALAND GROUND BEEF $4.49/lb.

BAR-S JUMBO HOTDOGS 1 LB $1.75

SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44 LBS $27.75

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR $4.75

HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12 PACK $8.99

PURISS SPRING WATER 20/350ml $5/cs.

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4 PACK $23.75/cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

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U.S. EGGS WHITE MEDIUM 1DZ $3.29/lb.

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EED FORK PLASTIC HD 24ct $1.75 ea.

SUPERSOFT TABLE NAPKINS 500ct $4.75

HEFTY FOAM PLATE 8 7/8" FT 100ct $4.75

KELLOGG APPLE JACKS 8.9oz
KELLOGG CORN POPS 8.8oz
KELLOGG FROOT LOOPS 8.9oz
KELLOGG FROSTED FLAKES 12z $4.75 ea.

BOUNTY WHITE DOUBLE ROLL 90ct 6DR $12.75

CHARMIN ULTRA STRONG 12=48 $14.99

US CHOICE TOP ROUND ROAST $6.89/lb.

US CHOICE SHOULDER CLOD STEAK $5.79/lb.

US CHOICE BOTTOM ROUND STEAK $6.39/lb.

US CHOICE FLAP MEAT SKIRT STEAK $12.89/lb.

US CHOICE KNUCKLE SIRLOIN TIP STEAK $6.29/lb.

US CHOICE CHUCK STEAK $7.19/lb.

US CHOICE BEEF FOR STEW $7.09/lb.

Joeten Shopping Center

Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

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Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

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SUPREME COURT
THE JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU

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Capitol: (680) 767-2330/2482/2607 • Facsimile: Koror (680) 488-1597 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2606
E-mail address: judiciary@palausupremecourt.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

Allison Idip Sengebau
Palau Supreme Court
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-2607
Mobile: (680) 775-4914
asengebau@palausupremecourt.net

Final evening of Taste until 11pm on May 25

Hungry and thirsty patrons will have more time to revel this weekend at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival, which will run until 11pm on its final night on Saturday, May 25.

The festival will open at 5pm at American Memorial Park in Garapan. Entertainment for the night on the main stage will largely highlight indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian performances: Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC) Northern Marianas Band at 5pm, FESTPAC Northern Marianas group performance at 6:25pm, Talabwogh Women at 6:40pm, Uralii at 7pm, Talabwogh Men at 7:15pm, South Korea performers at 7:30pm, announcements at 8pm, Guam i Napu at 8:30pm, Simiyan Marianas at 9pm, FESTPAC Northern Marianas group at 9:30pm, and FESTPAC Northern Marianas Band at 9:45pm.

The HANMI-NMTech Pastry Chef Competition will start at 6pm.

Last Saturday, the duo of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane and chef Louie Santos bested eight other teams to serve up the best rib eye steak in the Marianas Chef Competition. Incorporating mangos, bananas, coconut, cucumber, hot pepper and other local produce from a mystery basket unveiled before the competition started, Tomokane was deemed the best overall for taste, presentation, creativity, execution, use of ingredients, balance, cleanliness, and overall impression. First place garnered him a $500 shopping spree at Twins Market. In second place were Micheal Alovera and Cory Lee, winning a $300 gift certificate, and in third place was Antonio Agulto and Vincent Cabrera, winning a $200 gift certificate.

"The Marianas Chef Competition was an exhilarating one hour of creativity and craft, with some very interesting and tasty dishes from the chefs," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Every year, the Taste of The Marianas provides an opportunity for our contestants and our food and drink vendors to serve up their best and most popular items for others to enjoy. If you have not yet been, don't miss this final opportunity this Saturday for a culinary adventure at 'Taste.'"

Concepcion also thanked the various government agencies who partnered with the MVA to make Taste possible this year: Coastal Resources Management, Bureau of Environmental Health, Alcohol Beverage & Tobacco Control, Dept. of Fire & Emergency Management, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Lands & Natural Resources Div. of Parks & Recreation, Saipan Zoning Office, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Taste of The Marianas features dishes from 29 local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more. Food and drink vendors accept credit/debit cards. Tokens are also accepted and may be purchased at the festival or the Marianas Visitors Authority office at 3366 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, from 1pm to 4pm Monday through Friday. Cash transactions with vendors is prohibited.

This year's festival eateries include 38 Mitsubachi, Cup Bab Korean Restaurant, Ben-Ki, Yaya's Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest Bread Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, Lanlan Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe's,

See FINAL on Page 9

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-022
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-24-022, Workers' Compensation Insurance & Administration"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Francisco Matsunaga, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #07-2024(b)

Opening date: May 20, 2024 **Closing date: June 07, 2024**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) ARFF Mechanic II (1) ARFF Trainee	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr) PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(4) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I (2) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr) PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 07, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

HANMI-NMTech Pastry Chef Competition at Taste

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and Northern Marianas Technical Institute are teaming up for the HANMI-NMTech Pastry Chef Competition this Saturday evening at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival at the American Memorial Park.

Eleven former and ongoing students of the NMTech culinary program will be challenged to prepare the best version of a classic Marianas dessert—lantiyas—a soft, sweet delicacy that typically features sponge cake, milk, eggs, and cinnamon.

"I am immensely proud of our baking and pastry students as they prepare to showcase their talents in this upcoming competition. Their dedication, creativity, and passion for the craft have been truly inspiring to witness. I encourage them to embrace the experience wholeheartedly. I also want to give a huge thank you to Marianas Visitors Authority and HANMI for their continued partnership in making this event happen," said NMTech CEO Jodina Attao.

In support of developing a culinary workforce that is essential to the hotel industry, HANMI is offering up $1,500 in prize money to the winners: $750 for first place, $500 for second place, and $250 for third place.

"The hotel members of HANMI are pleased to support the further development of our culinary workforce in the Marianas, and this year's contest is just the icing on the cake—so to speak," said HANMI chair Dennis Seo. "Our members regularly engage in providing internships, job-shadowing, and even student tours to create more opportunities for people to choose a career in our food service industry. We're certainly looking forward to this week's competition!"

The contest will incorporate three secret ingredients. Chefs will begin at 6pm, and desserts will be chilled around 7pm until judging begins at 8pm. Entries will be judged based on appearance, taste, texture, and kitchen sanitation.

Taste of The Marianas will be open from 5pm to 11pm on Saturday, featuring cuisine from Saipan World Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Surf Club, and other food and drink vendors, as well as live entertainment throughout the night. ***(PR)***

FINAL

From page 8

Kanto 10, Kinpachi, Loco & Taco, Tupu Cane Juice, New Matty's BBQ, Oh My Grill, Surf Club, T-Bar, The Hut, Vi- Lyn's BBQ, Saipan World Resort, Ever Trust 123 Food, Pacific Islands Club Saipan (May 25), MARPAC, Napu Brewing, and WSTCO.

Festival Gold Sponsors are American Memorial Park, Bridge Capital LLC and Dave Electronics Center. Silver Sponsors are Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, EST Rental, IT&E, HANMI, Jonny's Bar and Grill, M&C LLC, Lanlan Tea House, Subway, Coca-Cola, and Foremost.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or at (670) 664-3200. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) TAMS NETWORK SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install Total Automotive Management Systems (TAMS) software by mapping the IP address of the server and setting up Employee user profiles and granting them access based on their designations and monitoring the tasks they do by reviewing the logs on the server; In charge of training sessions for employees in TAMS, dealership web sites & parts-departmental activities, responsible for all backups & security management; Manage inventory databases, generate reports, analyze and fixing the deficiencies by adjusting the ordering tables based on the sales history and demand for the product, and integrate accounting systems using TAMS software. Install and administrate bookkeeping and Automatic data processing (ADP) software's by giving limited access to the staff; Manage and provide technical support related to networking (LAN and WAN), and operating systems (Linux 8.6 & Windows); Evaluate and recommend network hardware and software to meet operational requirements; Stay up to date on new generation computers, Radio Frequency Scanners, Wireless devices & software whenever needed to meet customer demand; Create customer profiles in the server to maintain standardized pricing for each segment of customers and maintain consistent profit ratios; Assist with hardware-related problems and provide network support for the stores in the CNMI and Guam. Maintain the VPN tunnels between the stores in Saipan and Guam to process daily communications between the stores to transfer special requests/orders or inventory; Monitor suppliers to ensure that they efficiently and effectively provide needed auto parts and supplies within budgetary limits; Responsible for planning, developing, installing, configuring, maintaining, supporting and optimizing all network hardware, software and communication links between NAPA outlets in the CNMI, Guam and the Mainland United States; Perform other related duties as assigned by management.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science; Network Administration; Information Technology; Management Information Systems or related field, foreign equivalent is acceptable; AND
- 3 Years' experience in computer networking or other computer related field;

Working Conditions: Full-time (40 hours per week).
Location: Bisnes Mami (Saipan), Inc. dba NAPA Auto and Truck Parts; P.O. Box 504640; Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd., San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Venkata K. Medabalmi, President
Bisnes Mami, Inc.
P.O. Box 504640
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd., San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-0475
Email Address: spnaccounts@bmiguam.com

A non-profit organization run by and for persons with disabilities

Center for Living Independently in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
#1366 Anatahan Dr. & Guguan Dr.
P.O. Box 5759 CHRB
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Email: clisusansatur@gmail.com • Fax: 670-322-4307
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Job Vacancy Announcement

Home Health Education Specialist
3-month contract only July-September 2024.

Job Description:
- Teaches communication skills
- Teaches socialization skills
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- Assist Executive Director and Administrative Assistant
- Directly connect consumers with community resources
- Education and training for various application process
- Documentation of all activities on CLI suite
- Other duties as assigned

Documents required
High School Diploma/DEGREE, RESUME/BIODATA, COPY OF VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE, Covid Vaccination record card. If hired CURRENT POLICE CLEARANCE is needed

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE
Please submit resumes to ssatur@clicnmi.org or submit to Building 1366 in capitol hill

Salary dependent on qualification

Closing Date: June 15, 2024

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JOETEN MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC
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Entry forms are available at Joeten Motors Parts Department
For more information on the tournament, contact Norman Peter "Dung" Tenorio
at (670) 234-5563 or Email: joetenmgc@joeten.com

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Celebrating the Class of 2024

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES
Special to Saipan Tribune

As the Class of 2024 prepares to cross the stage and receive their diplomas, it is the perfect moment to reflect on their unique journey. This group, having spent a significant portion of their school years under the shadow of a global pandemic, has emerged resilient, adaptable, and ready to face an ever-changing world. Their experiences have shaped their character and outlook on life.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Northern Marianas College Class of 2024 receive their degrees and certificates during NMC's 43rd Commencement Exercises last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Resilience in the face of adversity

The Class of 2024, unlike any class before them, began school at a time of unprecedented global pandemic. While other classes had their studies interrupted, the class of 2024 was the only class that started in uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted traditional learning, forcing students to adapt to remote studies and frequent transitions between in-person and online education. These challenges required a level of flexibility and self-discipline that previous classes had not experienced to the same extent.

Despite these challenges, students showed remarkable resilience. They used creative ways to stay in touch with classmates, friends, and teachers, using technology to

See CLASS on Page 13

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Speaking on behalf of her peers, Anushi Joshi gives her speech during the Northern Marianas College's 43rd Commencement Exercises last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

CLASS OF
2024
As you cherish the fruits of your hard work, I wish that success keeps following you in everything that you do. Today and always...
Congratulations
Graduates!
From the Office of Senator
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
2nd Senatorial District, Tinian

School Year 2023-2024 Graduation Schedule

- May 19 Northern Marianas College 4pm
- May 16 Saipan Community School 6pm
- May 22 Garapan Elementary School 9am
- May 24 Agape Christian School 6pm
- May 24 Green Meadow School 10am
- May 25 Mount Carmel School 4pm
- May 25 Saipan International School 5:30pm
- May 27 Golden Harvest International School 3pm
- May 28 Tinian Jr. Sr. High School 4pm
- May 29 Francisco M. Sablan Middle School 9am
- May 29 Marianas High School 4pm
- May 30 Eucon International School 6pm
- May 30 Saipan SDA School-Child Development Center 6pm
- May 30 Chacha Oceanview Middle School 9am
- May 30 Kagman High School 4pm
- May 31 Dandan Middle School 9am
- May 31 Tinian Elementary School 9am
- May 31 William S. Reyes Elementary School 9am
- May 31 Grace Christian Academy 4pm
- May 31 Da'Ok Academy 4pm
- June 3 Hopwood Middle School 9am
- June 3 Sinapalo Elementary School 9am
- June 3 Saipan Southern High School 4pm
- June 4 Tanapag Middle School 9am
- June 5 Oleai Elementary School 9am
- June 5 Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School 4pm
- June 6 San Vicente Elementary School 8am
- June 6 Kagman Elementary School 8:30am
- June 6 Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School 6pm
- June 7 Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary TBA
- June 7 Koblerville Elementary School 3:30pm

GCA

GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Grace Christian Academy Board and Administration
would like to express a heartfelt

congratulations

to the 2024 Graduating Class

We are proud to announce that the graduating students have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

- Arizona State University
- Binghamton University (New York)
- Centennial College (Ontario, Canada)
- Colorado State University
- Chaminade University
- College of Southern Nevada
- Purdue University
- Macalester College (St. Paul, Minnesota)
- New York University (NYU)
- Northern Marianas College
- Stony Brook University (New York)
- University of Arizona
- University at Buffalo (New York)
- University of Guam
- University of Indiana-Indianapolis
- University of Maine
- University of Minnesota- Twin Cities
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of San Francisco
- University of Utah
- Washington State University

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Hope amidst despair

By GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

This is the college address that Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero delivered at NMC's 43rd Commencement Exercises last May 17.

NMC

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero delivers his address during NMC's 43rd Commencement Exercises last May 17.

The headlines these days are quite depressing. Everybody's fighting: Trump vs. Biden, Millennials vs. Gen X vs. Gen Z vs. Gen Alpha, even Drake vs. Kendrick Lamar.

On a more serious note, wars rage across the Middle East, the Ukraine, and Sudan, while global warming, economic disasters, and a growing mental health crisis are taking their toll on our humanity.

These headlines are enough to scare all of us away from each other and into our own little worlds, hiding in fear. But, as one of my greatest mentors once put it, "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering."

So, against all that fear, allow me to offer some hope.

Despite all the doom and gloom about climate change, last year, according to the think tank group Ember, solar and wind power generated a record 30% of global electricity, while fossil fuel production grew less than one percent and renewable energy gets more affordable every year. So, yes, the world is on fire, but we are making progress towards putting out that fire.

And what about the economy? During my lifetime, according to data from the World Bank, world poverty has been significantly reduced, from 50% of the world living in poverty in 1970 to only 10% in 2022. In that same time, personal income in the Western world increased from $22,000 per person to $55,000 per person, all adjusted for inflation. In short, less people are poor today than ever before, and more and more people are earning a livable income.

And what about public health? According to the World Health Organization, in 1900, half of all children died in birth, or 50%, but that dropped to just 4% in 2020. In that same timeframe, many major diseases were eradicated and average life expectancy increased from 32 years old to 71 years old. In other words, far less children are dying today and we are all living much longer lives than previous generations

So, when we take a step back and look at this big picture, things are getting better. There is cause for hope. But we don't have to look that far for hope. We can find it right here, in the Marianas, especially at NMC

To combat climate change, NMC is leading the way with Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Services' regenerative agriculture program and NextGen grant, a growing Natural Resources Management program, and the first ever CNMI Green Growth Initiative.

NMC is also playing a big role in improving our economy. The Small Business Development Center has supported hundreds of entrepreneurs and our Community Development Institute has provided targeted workforce training in artificial intelligence, childcare, and communications. And our academic programs continue to meet the workforce needs of the CNMI by providing some of our islands' top professionals, like the CNMI Public School System Teacher of the Year Dr. Roque Castro and Bank of Guam's Garapan Branch Manager Tania David.

NMC is also doing its part to preserve our cultural heritage. In partnership with the University of Guam, we published Dr. Faye Untalan's "Finu' Chamorro for Beginners." We also partnered with 500 Sails to offer a Traditional Navigation program taught by master navigator Mario Benito. And island wisdom continues to take center stage at our annual research symposium where our students and faculty blend modern scientific methods with rich cultural knowledge.

So, whether it be saving the planet, saving our economy, or saving our cultures, NMC continues to provide hope amidst all the despair of the world.

But nothing gives me more hope than what you, my dear graduates, have accomplished. From our Nursing Program, Ninfa Rabago and Joanne Samson represented the CNMI at the Pacific Non-Communicable Disease Youth Ambassadors Workshop in New Caledonia. From our Pre-Engineering program, Ejay Aguierre was named a 2024 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. From our Natural Resources Management program, our students again presented compelling research at the 15th Annual Conference on Island Sustainability. From our School of Business, besting over 6,000 competitors, our students placed in the top 10th percentile in the Capsim 2.0 Global Business Simulation Program. And from our 4-H Program, under the leadership of Jody Coloma, 4-H delegates took the stage with some of the nation's top leaders at a conference in Virginia where they amplified our voices and even recited the 4-H pledge in Chamorro.

I can go on and on and on about the many awards that you, my dear graduates, have won, bringing hope to us all.

But what gives me the most hope is not the awards. It's not the prizes or the accolades. It's your personal stories of overcoming all odds to graduate today.

Like Earl Salamat, who had to balance active military deployments and family obligations with his coursework so that he could graduate with his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. Or Jesica Anderbor, who suffered a knee injury that impaired her mobility, forced her to resign from her job, and caused financial instability, but persisted to graduate with her Associate's Degree in Nursing. Or Mark Calma, whose mother is sick and bedridden in the Philippines, whose father abandoned him, and who recently experienced a deep heartbreak. Despite these challenges, and with support from his mentor, Erick Van der Maas, today Mark earns his Bachelor's Degree in Business. Or Mike Takai Villagomez, whose long, winding journey to the states and back led him to discover his passion for teaching and earn his Bachelor's Degree in Education. Or, NMC's very own Jennifer Benavente, from our procurement office, who took a 14-year hiatus from school but, today, with support from her family, earns her Bachelor's Degree in Business.

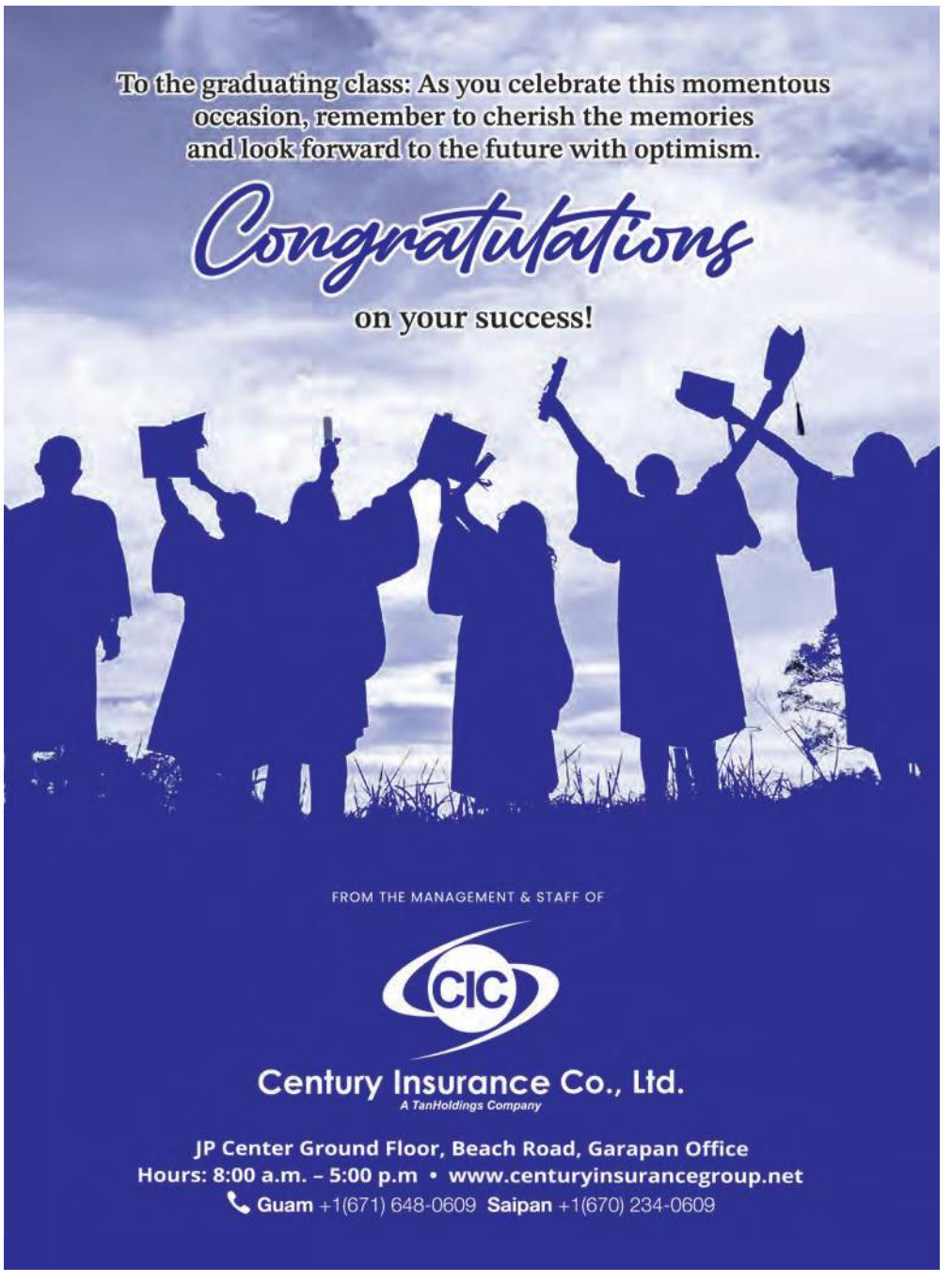
I don't know how you all did it while still taking classes in tents. We cannot thank you enough for your patient persistence. You are the very definition of hope.

But, wait, there's more. I'm forgetting one last graduate, not from this year but from 42 years ago in 1982, when NMC conferred its very first Associate's Degree to this person, NMC's very first graduate. This proud proa went on to become one of the most inspiring teachers in PSS, launch a business that serves up some of the most delicious food in the CNMI, and has also served the longest term ever on the Board of Regents for 20 years, two months, and 14 days. Ladies and gentlemen, this is none other than our vice chair and regent representing the island of Rota, Elaine Hocog Orilla. For her service, dedication, and inspiration, and in recognition of her being the first ever graduate from NMC, I am honored to present vice chair Orilla with the NMC President's Napu Award.

Thank you, vice chair for having unshakable hope in yourself, in NMC, and in our community. Thank you, too, graduates for showing us what hope like that looks like.

Your hope reminds me of the hope that our ancestors had when they sailed thousands of miles across the vast Pacific on their mighty proas. Drawing from a rich heritage passed on for generations, they were guided by the stars, the ocean, and the wind to seek islands that lie just beyond the horizon. They could not see where they were going, but they knew where they needed to go. It took incredible hope to have that kind of vision, to see what could not be seen. It's something we all need more of these days, no matter what the headlines tell us.

See HOPE on Page 13


To the graduating class: As you celebrate this momentous occasion, remember to cherish the memories and look forward to the future with optimism.
Congratulations
on your success!
FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
CIC
Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
A TanHoldings Company
JP Center Ground Floor, Beach Road, Garapan Office
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HOPE

From page 12

Indeed, all of us can all learn from our ancestors and from these graduates, this simple lesson. Despite all the challenges that we face, do not despair. Do not lose hope. Have enough vision to see what others cannot see. And sail towards that brighter, better future with all your soul and all your might. As you do, stay safe, stay calm, and sail on.

CLASS

From page 10

keep learning. Their ability to get through such a tough time shows their determination and flexibility.

Embracing technological advancements

The need for remote learning sped up the use of technology in education. The Class of 2024 became accustomed at using different digital tools and platforms, which are very useful in today's tech-driven world. They use technology not just for school, but also for socializing, doing projects, and many more.

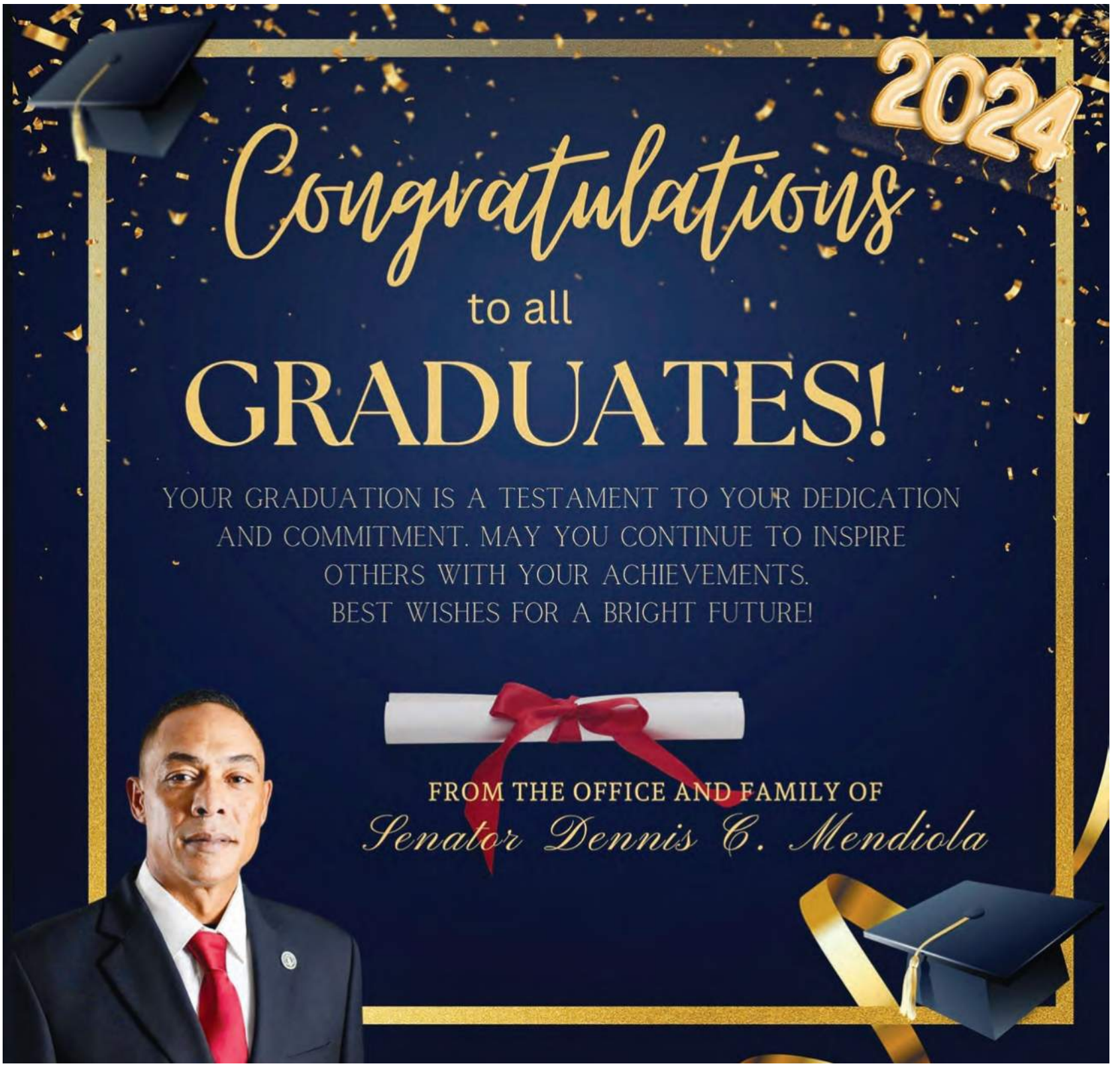
Their familiarization with technology gives them an advantage for future jobs, where knowing how to use digital tools is important. They have learned to solve problems, manage their time well online, and work together with others on digital platforms—skills that employers highly value nowadays.

Looking ahead: The future for the Class of 2024

The Class of 2024 faces a world that continues to evolve rapidly. Their experiences have uniquely prepared them to be leaders and innovators in various fields. The resilience and adaptability they have developed will serve them well in whatever paths they choose. They are a testament to the power of perseverance and the potential that lies in overcoming challenges.

The Class of 2024 stands out not just for their academic achievements but for the strength of character they have demonstrated throughout their educational journey. They faced many tough challenges and came out stronger, more technologically savvy, and more aware of social issues. As they move on to the next part of their lives, they bring along important lessons and skills they've learned. The future looks bright with this talented and determined group of graduates.

OUR WARMEST
Congratulations
CLASS OF 2024!
Today marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Each of you has faced unique challenges and overcome countless obstacles to arrive at this moment, and your achievements are truly commendable.
As you move forward into the next chapter of your lives, remember the lessons learned and the friendships forged during your time here. Carry the knowledge and experiences with you as you embark on new adventures and pursue your dreams. Your journey is just beginning, and the future holds endless possibilities.
Believe in yourselves and your ability to make a difference. The world is ready for your talents, your ideas, and your passion. Embrace every opportunity, stay curious, and never stop learning.
The whole CNMI community is incredibly proud of you and excited to see all the amazing things you will accomplish. Congratulations once again, Class of 2024!
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER


2024
Congratulations
to all
GRADUATES!
YOUR GRADUATION IS A TESTAMENT TO YOUR DEDICATION
AND COMMITMENT. MAY YOU CONTINUE TO INSPIRE
OTHERS WITH YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.
BEST WISHES FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE!
FROM THE OFFICE AND FAMILY OF
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola

AGAPE Christian School

17TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

Continue the school's vision and mission to educate, inspire, and change lives

MAY 24, 2024 • 6:00 P.M.

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2024

MIDDLE SCHOOL *Graduates*

Escarlan, Reyviel Van Labao
Valedictorian
Promoted to High School

Yang, Lang (Steve)
Salutatorian
Promoted to High School

Cai, Ziheng (Raffy)
Promoted to High School

Chen, Jiahui (Jessica)
Promoted to High School

Chen, Weihang (Percival)
Promoted to High School

Cheng, Ziqian (Danny)
Promoted to High School

Fanglin, Letong (Chloe)
Promoted to High School

Li, Huien (Dorothy)
Promoted to High School

Lin, Enyi (Norden)
Promoted to High School

Shen, Wei (Jack)
Promoted to High School

Tang, Yao (Victory)
Promoted to High School

Tian, Kexin (Nancy)
Promoted to High School

Wu, Saiwen (Eunice)
Promoted to High School

Wu, Winnie Yi
Promoted to High School

Yang, Shengshi (Daniel)
Promoted to High School

Zhang, Kaixin (Christina)
Promoted to High School

Zhang, Tianxin (Matthew)
Promoted to High School

HIGH SCHOOL *Graduates*

Huang, Yilin (Elim)
Valedictorian
Next Destination
Major in Nursing,
Bob Jones University, South Carolina.
$17,000 Scholarship from BJU

Chen, Xu (Stephen)
Salutatorian
Next Destination
Major in Cyber Security,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida.
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Qiu, Wenqi (Jim)
Salutatorian
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida.
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Chen, Boxin
Next Destination
Major in Electrical Engineering,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Feng, Tianci (Acher)
Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Pang, Aiyuan (Emma)
Next Destination
Major in Graphic Design (Visual Art),
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Wang, Zihan (Jacob)
Next Destination
Major in Accounting,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Xu, Meijun (Diana)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Yang, Jason Lijie
Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Ye, Enze (Allen)
Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Zhao, Shengjie (David)
Next Destination
Major in Mathematics,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
$14,500 Scholarship from PCC

Ji, Enyang (David)
Graduated in December 2023,
currently pursuing Finance,
Pensacola Christian College (PCC),
Florida.

Wei, Xiaowen (Grace)
Graduated in December 2023.
Currently pursuing Health Science
at Bob Jones University,
South Carolina.

Zhou, Jingyi (Esther)
Graduated in December 2023.
Currently pursuing Kinesiology
at Bob Jones University,
South Carolina.

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GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL

GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL SINCE 2002

Congratulations CLASS OF 2024

5TH GRADE

Agdoro, Angelee

Armia, Edrich Jewel

Bandada, Carmela Doreene

Daca, John Rey

Escano, Emmjie

Espiritu, Geri Liam Angelo

Mabaquiao, Jarl Marcin L

Manganti, Kaiser

Monkeya, Paige Melanee

Nekaifes, Davizin Carmen Zareena

Pasaylo, Mary Joy

Regacho, Meraia Rutheimi

Roquelara, Rayne Angela

Salamat, Lanz Carmelo

Sansi, Rihanna

Santos, Albert Miguel

Sarabia, Johana Elizabeth

8TH GRADE

Acaba, Nelisa Nicole

Agbayani, Rhett Garth

De Leon, Rihanna Grace

De Leon, Rochelle Ann Stephanie

Ferrera, Silver Sabrina

Galang, John

Lapuz, Nash Aidam

Mallari, Isabella Marie

Remilloza, Andrea Fhe

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As you graduate, remember that the world is full of possibilities. Embrace every opportunity and chase your dreams.
Congratulations
Class of 2024
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Will Iran ever change? The death of President Ebrahim Raisi and the terror regime continues

When more than 100 Iranians were murdered and hundreds of others were injured by suicide terrorists in January, President Ebrahim Raisi said: "We tell the criminal America and Zionist regime that you will pay a very high price for the crimes you have committed and will regret it." But neither the U.S. nor Israel (the aforementioned Zionist regime) had anything to do with the atrocity of killing pilgrims mourning the death of terror master Qasem Soleimani, a general of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), who the Pentagon justly dispatched in 2020.

The actual perpetrator of the terror attack in Kerman, the worst since the founding of the Islamic Republic in 1979, was ISIS, specially ISIS-K, the Afghanistan offshoot of the bloodthirsty gang. But it didn't matter to Raisi, a fanatic close to the IRGC. Well, now Raisi is close to God, having died in a helicopter crash, along with Iran's foreign minister, a regional governor and the local representative of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader.

And the culprit here wasn't Washington or Jerusalem or some internal faction or even ISIS, but a very old copter flying in bad weather over dangerous terrain.

Raisi will now have to account for his crimes that earned him the title of "Butcher of Tehran," a nickname he got not because he was selling halal meat, but for his part in the wanton murder of thousands of political prisoners in 1988. We dare not call the deaths "executions" because that implies the carrying out of a sentence for a capital offense following a fair and just trial.

Raisi's long career of ruthlessness had him being eyed as the 85-year-old Khamenei's successor as the next supreme leader, the holder of the ultimate power.

Iran and the world is at least spared that, but Khamenei and the other mullahs remain, oppressing women, crushing dissent and speech, fomenting terror across the Mideast, and most dangerous of all, still pursuing nukes. Iran was blessed by nature to be sitting on one of the world's biggest pools of oil and natural gas. They don't need atomic technology to generate electric power (the phony claim for their reactors and their uranium and their plutonium) and the hostile and belligerent regime shouldn't have nuclear weapons.

Funding and arming IRGC proxies Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and Shia terror militias in Iraq and Syria, allows Tehran to extend its power to and attack Israel and moderate Arab states. But what does that power do for the Iranian people? Are they more secure or more prosperous? No. They are less secure or less prosperous.

Iran's fusillade of rockets, missiles and drones at Israel a

See IRAN on Page 19

Donald Trump can't and won't ever admit he's wrong

By ADRIANA E. RAMIREZ
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Former President Donald Trump cannot admit that he lost the 2020 election. He cannot, will not and has no reason to ever admit the truth, because to admit defeat would be to become a loser. And men like Mr. Trump cannot stand to lose.

Last Friday, at a rally in Minnesota, Mr. Trump claimed a previous electoral victory in the Gopher State, noting that "I know we won it in 2020." Minnesota? Really? A state that Democrats have carried since 1976? A state that even the most Trump-friendly news outlets never called in his favor? Minnesota?

Two days earlier, on Minnesota Public Radio, he made the same claim, saying "I thought I won in 2020 easily." What? It seemed that Mr. Trump, who originally contested the results of the 2020 election in a handful of states including Georgia and Arizona, has expanded the reach of his Big Lie to states that he lost by well over 200,000 votes.

Rather than admit in the face of endlessly mounting evidence that he was wrong and concede his defeat, Mr. Trump seems to be doubling down on the victory in his own head. In Mr. Trump's estimation, he actually won every state, all of them, if only it hadn't been for those pesky election officials.

And if he cannot admit he is wrong, why not double down on being more right, no matter how absurd the claim?

Mr. Trump will probably soon declare he also won Washington, D.C., where he received only 5.4% of the vote.

Being accountable used to be cool, or maybe that's something the adults in my life told me as a child to make me more accountable. These days, in the public square we call the internet, to admit a mistake is viewed, wrongly, as agreeing to weakness.

There is a lot of psychology behind why we cannot admit we are wrong. I spoke to a local professor of psychology, who was quick to answer, "that's all about ego, about a person's sense of self."

She explained that for some people, acknowledging wrongness is so antithetical to their perception of themselves, that their brains will actually not let them accept even the most obvious of truths. The brain will rewrite history, introduce conspiracy and deploy whatever other defense mechanisms the mind can conceive of in order to technically never be incorrect.

It's amazing and beautiful how our bodies will protect us. But it's also tearing apart any notions of civility between us that still exist.

And oftentimes, the exact people who cannot admit when they are wrong are the first to call it a weakness when others do. I've seen enough private apologies between two individuals screenshotted and shared on social media to understand that for some fragile egos, any admission of fault is viewed as an admission of debility, when it's the exact opposite.

The psychologist told me that people are often shamed for accountability, or believe they will be, and that's enough to keep them from trying. Being shamed is worse than whatever mistake was committed in the first place.

Most of us will eventually run up against the wall. My 6-year-old tried to lie about drinking my juice one morning, cranberry stains on his lips, my cup before him. But the truth could not be denied and when he finally admitted to lying, we were all the better for it.

"How we apologize reveals a lot about us," the psychologist told me. "Someone who is psychologically fragile will think they are strong for standing their ground, but they are showing fragility. A 'stronger' person would endure the shame of defeat. A 'weaker' person would prefer to change the truth over ever having to admit they were wrong."

In Mr. Trump's case, there are other circumstances. Maintaining his lie has been a financially sound decision, as he sells his version of reality to his donors, who keep funding his political and legal operations. And until he runs into the wall that is a legal conviction, there has been little reason for him to do or say otherwise. His brand is winning, and anything that cops to losing would be obviously off-brand.

But for the people who believe that the election was stolen, there's something else at stake. If Mr. Trump is wrong about this, it opens up their entire worldview to the possibility that he is (and, in turn, they are) wrong about other things—and that's earth-shattering. Imagine a world in which Mr. Trump admits his mistake. What would that do to his followers? What would that do to him?

He can't do it. There are reasons to like Mr. Trump; there are reasons to hate him. But regarding his inability to admit he lost the 2020 election, I just feel sorry for him. It must be hard to carry so many lies in his head. It must be hard to forget exactly which states he actually lost, and which ones he only carried in his imagination — like Minnesota.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Running for Congress

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

I have pulled some cockamamie schemes over the years trying to incent (or rather trick) myself into being a better version of who I am particularly as it relates to being a better ward of this now old body, mind and soul, but this year's plan will take the cake. Actually, if all goes to plan there won't be any cake involved. Perhaps my fellow empaths, debu-club members, gym-rats (of my former life) and, of course, prayer warriors might rally around this to guard against the vitriol or worse the internal demons that often thwart the best laid plans. Ultimately, this is just about an old man trying to become a better person and to give back in return.

Here it goes… nothing seems to motivate me enough to stop getting fatter each year. I can't even remember how many biggest loser challenges or other weight loss bets I've lost over the years—money is obviously not a great motivator for me. So, this year's carrot to lose weight and feel better will be a run for public office. That's right. I intend to run for public office this coming election, BUT (and here is the cockamamie part) ONLY IF, by the deadline to register as a candidate (Aug. 7, 2024, a little over two months from now), I lose at least 52 lbs. of body weight (because I'm 52 years old, of course), log no less than 52 miles of walk/run times and get my fastest mile to under 12 minutes. I'm a far cry from any of that now—mind you I'm sitting around 300 lbs. in body weight and can barely walk (due to foot and knee problems) at present. Thankfully the old ticker and other health indicators are still good—my doctor basically told me again that I am fat, but "surprisingly" healthy. Consequently though, debilitating physical ailments and pain can do a crazy number on a person's psyche and general sense of self-worth—I am no exception—so there will be some mental health and other co-occurring disorders work to be done as well. It is an understatement to say that this would be a monumental feat for me both physically and mentally. Essentially, I need to be a better version of myself before I can feel worthy of representing others and I'd like to be someone of which my kids can be proud. On that note and speaking of monumental, I'm not talking about just any public office, but I'd run for the Office of the People of the Northern Mariana Islands to be CNMI's next delegate in U.S. Congress. Go big or go home.

Others can talk about running their respective campaigns, but I would literally be running for Congress. Come what may.

Firstly, I'll say that there are big shoes to fill in that seat and whoever gets to hold it next ought to be the best possible version of him or herself—in body, mind, and soul. Equally, if not more importantly, that person needs to be someone who can see past him or herself and be a genuine representative and true reflection of the collective good in all of us including those with whom we disagree and/or dislike. It goes without saying too that our best candidate is someone who can articulate our collective message and build functional, if not genuine relationships in the halls of Congress. With due respect to my friend and outgoing delegate, those shoes left to fill were not necessarily the biggest, best or brightest kicks in the land, but they were grounded in humility and a true sense of having walked in the shoes of others through good and bad times. The shoes of a statesman who was, "humble, but not timid; strong, but not rude; proud, but not arrogant; and kind, but not weak." At my best, I can be all of those things—no doubt most of us can, if we get over our inherent, bloated sense of self-importance. "When science discovers the center of the universe, a lot of (us) will be disappointed to learn that (we) are not it" (B. Bailey).

I've been lamenting lately about not being able to run, literally. A combination of chronic obesity, age, and now a condition called plantar fasciitis which, in addition to excruciating pain in my foot comes with related knee problems, has nearly grounded me in these past several months. It's fair to say, I've become substantially limited in a major life activity—in this case walking and/or running. Coincidentally, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a person with a disability as "a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity." While I've been advocating for the rights of people with disabilities for most of my life now, I have to admit that I'm paying a lot closer attention to things like accessible parking and ramps going in out of buildings these days including my own home which is not fully accessible although plans are brewing to build ramps.

"Challenges to a person's health can happen to anyone, at any age and at any time as a result of any number of different causes. No one is immune from the potential onset of a disability: An infant can be born with profound deafness; a child can become paralyzed from a playground injury; a young adult can develop depression and drug abuse; a woman in her early 30s can be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; a man in midlife can develop Type II diabetes; and an older adult can lose vision because of glaucoma" (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44671/). Disabilities are a natural part of the human experience. "An estimated 1.3 billion people—or 16% of the global population—experience a significant disability today. This number is growing because of an increase in noncommunicable diseases" due to heightened susceptibility to risk factors such as smoking, poor diet, alcohol consumption and lack of physical activity.

The hard truth is that some people, through no fault of their own, endure inequities and discrimination in our society due to their disabilities. The harder truth is that some of us acquire disabilities through nobody's fault, but our own and it usually takes direct personal experiences for us to truly appreciate the need for legal protections and programs on behalf of people with disabilities.

I have learned to a certain degree to be mindful of the downsides to my actions and to let the upsides take care of themselves. So, what are the downsides here? Worst-case scenario, I keep doing the same things over and over expecting a different result and slowly, but surely slink further and further into a half-ton life. Or let's say I work my butt off for the next two months and miss my target weight and/or times? At least I worked hard—life is not supposed to be easy; in fact, "an easy life makes weak men." Or maybe, I meet all my targets, get on the ballot for November and lose by massive margins proving how terribly unpopular I am? Well, I stopped worrying about being popular in middle school. No harm, no foul.

No doubt new lessons will be learned on this journey. Still, one of the greatest lessons I've come to understand from people in general, but certainly more from individuals with disabilities is that what often seems impossible can be possible given strong personal will and genuine support from people who love and care about you.

By the way, if none of this comes to pass then I will support and vote for… [to be continued].

For more on OVR programs for individuals with disabilities, feel free to contact our office at (670) 322-6537/8 or online at www.ovrgov.net.

IRAN

From page 18

month ago, despite being a colossal failure, was a shocking act of war that was successfully defeated by an alliance of Israel, Western powers and Arab states. That should be the future of the region, of trade and cooperation, not terror and war. Iran should join with its neighbors instead of trying to undermine and destroy them. However, we fear that Iran's next president and next supreme leader will continue to pursue aggressive policies that have isolated and impoverished the country.

That Iran remains a threat to the Mideast is a decision made by the bad men who lead that nation.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Capital Hill or Capitol Hill?

When I go to the post office, I pass under a sign that says Capitol Hill Post Office and mail a letter that is postmarked Capital Hill. How can that be? Surely, one is correct and one is incorrect. Right? No, not necessarily.

Wikipedia spells it Capitol Hill. U.S. Geological Survey spells it Capital Hill. Google uses Capitol. Saipan Tribune uses Capitol Hill. Marianas Variety uses Capital Hill. Booking.com uses Capitol. AccuWeather uses Capital. Photos in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands archives at the University of Hawaii are labeled either Capital Hill or Capitol Hill, proving that at least some people were confused even back then.

What in the wide world of place names is going on here? And how does it relate to quantum physics?

After the CIA left in July, 1962, the Saipan Municipal Council renamed Army Hill as Capital Hill, appropriately considering the Trust Territory headquartered there. Somehow, someway, Capital got hijacked by Capitol. When? Why? By who exactly?

Was it because a mapmaker, who didn't really know, misspelled it and that was copied which spread? Or did someone decide that Capital was the wrong way to spell it and it should be Capitol, perhaps because the first NMI Legislature was located in Susupe in 1978 and the definition of capital is where the legislature is situated, thus, it was no longer properly a capital hill?

I remember asking the late Luis Crisostimo why he spelled his name that way when everyone on Saipan and Guam including his family was Crisostomo. He said he thought his way looked better. Is that what happened here?

At some point Public Lands sided with Capitol Hill. Then why is the postmark there Capital Hill? Because that was its designation when it opened in the 1960s based on the official name legally adopted by the local government. Take Capitol Hill, Seattle, as an example. There is no capitol there, never was, only a hope that if he built it, they would come but the government never came and the name sticks. How many people change their name when they get old? It's the same thing here. No need, too late. Capital Hill Rural Branch is the designation issued by the United States Post Office.

So how can both spellings be correct? We use quantum mechanics to prove it by drawing upon Schrodinger's cat, a thought experiment where the cat can be both dead and alive at the same time. Only when the box is opened do we know the correct outcome.In the world we observe, the cat is either dead or alive expressed as a probability, a percentage that may or may not equal the actual outcome. In the quantum world, which is as real as the world we observe, the outcome is the probability of alive added to the probability of dead which always equals the outcome.

In Saipan's quantum world, therefore, both Capital and Capitol are correct and no one has to worry about misspelling it, which is good because I can only think of a billion more important things.

In my opinion, that area should be spelled Capital Hill because that's the name given by the first Saipan government plus it's the location of the legislature. However, I spell it Capitol Hill as my name also has "o" but not "a" and I think my way looks better.

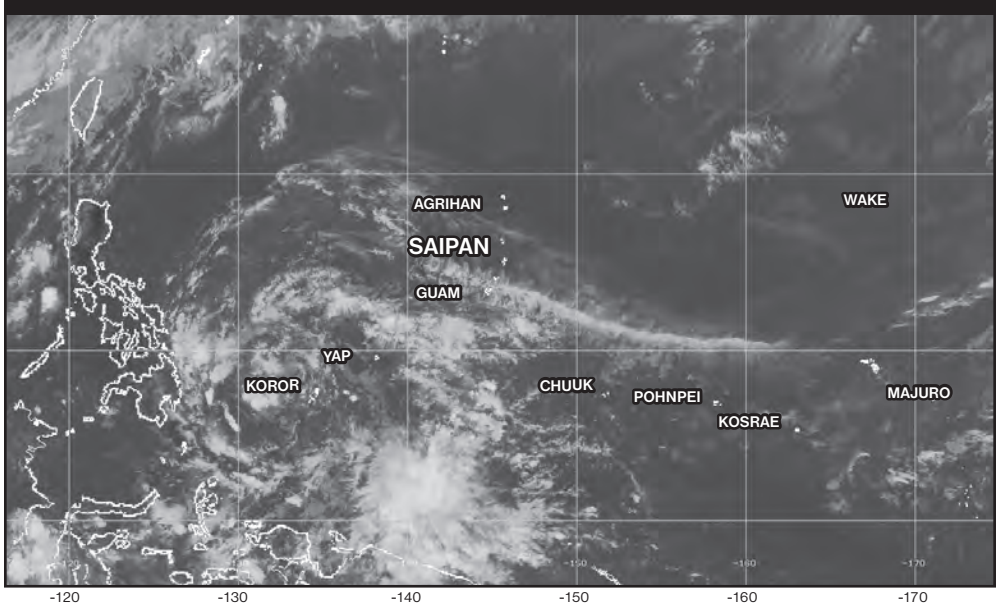
Bob Coldeen
Chalan Galaide

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.
86º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:12 AM THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Invest 93W has become the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) to the south-southeast of Koror, and will be monitored carefully. For more discussion see the Tropical section below. Otherwise for the Marianas; Satellite shows patchy mid and high level clouds spreading across the region. Just along the far southern coastal waters there are a few showers and possible thunderstorms. Local airports report gentle to moderate trade winds and gradient winds at 925 millibars were 23 knots last night. combined seas are ranging from 5 to 8 feet, and should subside a foot or two by this weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	90° / 82°
Palau	Light Rain Shower	87° / 81°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	89° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	90° / 82°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 83°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 83°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:53 AM	7:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:45 AM	8:24 PM
Sunday	-	7:42 AM	9:22 PM
Monday	-	8:42 AM	10:18 PM
Tuesday	-	9:44 AM	11:09 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 51°
Beijing	Fair	90° / 72°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	80° / 75°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Thunderstorms	77° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 60°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	96° / 84°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
New York	Clear	81° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	84° / 63°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 62°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	82° / 62°
San Francisco	Sunny	63° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	78° / 59°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:10 AM	Low Tide	1.39
6:54 AM	High Tide	1.92
2:19 PM	Low Tide	-0.18
9:36 PM	High Tide	1.99

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

SBDC to partner with VBOC Program to host in-person Boots to Business training Eeent

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is calling on all veterans and military service men and women who are interested in starting a business or expanding their existing one.

On Tuesday, June 4, 2024 from 10am to 6pm, the CNMI SBDC will be partnering with the U.S. Small Business Administration to bring "Boots to Business," an in-person training opportunity open to service members including National Guard and Reservists, and/or their military spouses who are interested in honing in on their entrepreneurial skills.

The eight-hour training event, designed to provide participants with an overview of business ownership, is part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program. The training event will be hosted at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

The training session will be presented by Dennis Kwak, director of the Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Pacific out of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Some key topics to be covered include:

■ An Introduction to Business Ownership

■ Basics of Opportunity Recognition

■ Understanding Markets & Your Competitive Space

■ The Economics of Small Business Start-Up

■ Legal Considerations for Veteran-owned Small Businesses

■ An Introduction to Business Planning

The presentation will allow for additional discussion on financing your venture, the sharing of resources to support your efforts, and will also present an opportunity for participants to have a one-on-one discussion with visiting presenter Dennis Kwak.

Recognizing the work of our Veteran community, Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, network director of the CNMI SBDC, urges all Service men and women and/or their spouses to attend this rare no-cost training opportunity,

"We are grateful to our partners from the SBA in allowing us to tap into their resources to maximize in our efforts in presenting economic opportunities for such an important community base within our Commonwealth. We encourage our Veterans to take full advantage of this opportunity and to sign up to gain invaluable knowledge from our experts who will be onsite to provide guidance and answer questions they may have related to the programs available under the Small Business Administration that can help them succeed in their upcoming business ventures."

Registration for the training session comes at no-cost, but space is limited. If you are already registered with the

CNMI SBDC as a client, you may click on this link to complete your registration at https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019158.

If you are currently not registered with the CNMI SBDC, visit SBDC's website at www.cnmisbdc.com to register and start availing of our no-cost services.

You may also reach CNMI SBDC Administrative Office manager, Adelpha K. Magofna, at (670) 237-6888 or by email at adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu to provide over-the-phone support.

Stay updated with our upcoming news and events by also visiting SBDC's website or by following their social media channels at CNMI Small Business Development Center Network on Facebook or Instagram @ cnmisbdc. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title Position: Front Office Manager

Key Responsibilities:
- Customer Service: Greet and welcome visitors and clients in a professional and friendly manner.
- Communication: Answer, screen, and forward incoming phone calls. Take accurate messages when necessary.
- Administration: Maintain the reception area, keeping it clean and organized. Manage the scheduling and coordination of meetings and appointments.
- Clerical Support: Perform a variety of clerical duties including data entry, filing, and managing correspondence.
- Coordination: Assist with administrative tasks and provide support to other departments as needed.
- Mail Handling: Sort and distribute mail and packages. Prepare outgoing mail and courier services.
- Security: Monitor visitor access and maintain security protocols.
- Business Administration: Register businesses and securing licenses in CNMI. Prepare and file BGRT as well as doing payroll for CNMI employees.

Qualifications:
- Highschool graduate
- Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Familiar with getting businesses registered and licensed in the CNMI.
- Familiar with BGRT returns is a plus but not required.
- Experienced in preparing payroll for CNMI employees is a plus but not required.
- Bookkeeping experience is a plus but not required.

Position(s): One (1)

Job Site: Saipan, CNMI

Opening Date: May 20, 2024

Closing Date: May 31, 2024

Salary is commensurate with experience.

How to apply: Submit a professional resume to:

Burger - Comer & Associates
Office Address: 1930 Picarro Ln I Liyang Village, Saipan MP 96950

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES (IFB-008-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 24, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS **(IFB-008-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24

- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-005-24

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
Request for Proposals
for: CPA-RFP-006-24

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New Mirage Spa is located along the former Paseo de Marianas across ABC Store in the tourist district of Garapan.

New Mirage Spa reopens under new management

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

New Mirage Spa along what used to be the Paseo de Marianas is under new management and reopened last May 18.

Owner Lin Ming said they opened/reopened the new/old massage establishment following the return of regular Hong Kong Airlines flights to Saipan as she anticipates tourists from the former Crown Colony and mainland China would need some pampering during their stay on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New Mirage Spa boasts of seven well-appointed massage rooms with 16 massage beds in total and a spacious waiting area.

"We think that more flights will be coming one after another. There will be a lot of tourist customers. Local residents also have massage needs and we're here to attend to them."

Ming said the opening of the erstwhile Paseo de Marianas to vehicular traffic also holds the promise of more clientele for New Mirage Spa.

"Personally, I feel the opening of Paseo de Marianas to motorists is a good thing. But there are still too few parking spaces," she said.

As to what makes New Mirage Spa different from other massage parlors on Saipan, Ming said the newly renovated establishment boasts of seven well-appointed massage rooms with 16 massage beds in total. They also have six masseuses at the beck and call of local and tourist customers alike.

Aside from the comfy and elegant interior that includes a spacious area where you can relax and get free tea, New Mirage Spa also has well-trained masseuses.

Massages offered are foot massage ($25 for 1 ½ hours), full body massage ($25 for 1 hour and $35 for 1 ½ hours), Acupoint massage ($25 for 1 hour and $35 for 1 ½ hours), and sunburn care and seaweed body pack ($25 for 1 hour and $35 for 1 ½ hours). The latter is especially made to cater to tourists who had a full day at the beach.

And since Ming also owns Night Scent Restaurant just around the corner along Coral Tree Avenue, frequent diners will get discounts at New Mirage Spa and vice a versa. Currently, New Mirage Spa also has a loyalty stamp card where 10 massages gets you a free 1-hour massage.

New Mirage Spa is located along the former Paseo de Marianas across ABC Store in the tourist district of Garapan. It's open from Sunday to Saturday, 12pm-2am. For more information, call (670) 233-4137.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400086

SUBMISSION DATE: 9:00 AM ChST, JUNE 10, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TREASURY BUILDING RENOVATION

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the *Department of Finance Treasury Building Renovation* in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 10, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Capitol Hill, Saipan at **10:00 AM ChST, May 28, 2024.** Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at syamada.cip@gmail.com no later than **4:00 PM ChST, June 4, 2024.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **9:00 AM ChST, June 4, 2024.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien Sers Nicholas Jr.
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby discloses that on December 11, 2023, **Julie S. Tebuteb,** an immediate family member of **Melvin M. Sablan,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **June 3, 2024.**

Dated this 17th day of May, 2024.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	] **Civil Action No. 15-0197**
Plaintiff,	] **Civil Action No. 15-0193**
vs.	]
STEVEN V. PANGELINAN,	] **NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE OF LOT NO. H-251-3**
Defendant.	]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued in the above-titled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on December 11, 2023, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to the Bank of Guam, as prescribed in the Order Approving Plaintiff's Motion for Writ of Execution of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on July 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said Writ of Execution, to wit:

Lot H-251-3 is 5,000 square meters and is located in As Lito-As Perdido, Saipan Municipality, CNMI. The property is designated as wetland conservation, as shown on the ArcGIS App Map and the National Wetlands Inventory Map of Saipan. The subject lies in a wetland area identified as a Freshwater Emergent Wetland (PEM1F).

1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person or in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robertorres@rtlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff Bank of Guam.
6. Change of Terms. The auctioneer and the Plaintiff, Bank of Guam, reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of April 2024.

/s/ Robert T. Torres
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-DCCA/DYS/RT-42400093

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2024
TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"TO PROCURE AND INSTALL TYPHOON SHUTTERS AT THE ROTA DCCA DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES SINAPALO YOUTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 1301, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES BY MAY 31, 2024, TO MS. VIVIAN T. SABLAN VIA EMAIL AT vtsablan@dys.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCISCO M. RABAULIMAN
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-017	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) *Re-Announcement*	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	May 24, 2024	Until Filled

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Life & Style

Barbie will make dolls to honor Venus Williams, other star athletes

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Barbie dolls will honor tennis champion Venus Williams and eight other athletes as part of a project announced by Mattel on Wednesday.

The others being depicted as dolls are gymnasts Rebeca Andrade and Alexa Moreno, soccer players Mary Fowler and Christine Sinclair, boxer Estelle Mossely, swimmer Federica Pellegrini, paratriathlete Susana Rodriguez and track and field sprinter Ewa Swoboda.

"Throughout my career, I've always been driven by the idea of shattering glass ceilings and staying true to myself, and Barbie's mission couldn't resonate more deeply with that ethos," said Williams, who has won seven Grand Slam singles titles.

AP
This May 14, 2024, photo provided by Mattel Inc., shows Venus Williams holding a Venus Williams Barbie Doll in Puerto Rico.

The brand wanted to note "the impact of sports in fostering self-confidence, ambition, and empowerment among the next generation," Mattel's Krista Berger said.

NY Senate passes bill to tighten legal standard Weinstein used to toss rape conviction

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The New York state Senate on Wednesday passed a bill to explicitly allow evidence of prior sexual offenses in sex crimes cases, a move to change the legal standard Harvey Weinstein used to overturn his rape conviction.

The Senate approved the bill by a vote of 55-4. The proposal now moves to the state Assembly.

Lawmakers began pushing the measure weeks after the state's high court tossed Weinstein's conviction in a ruling that found a trial judge unfairly allowed women to testify about assault allegations that weren't part of the criminal charges against Weinstein.

Weinstein

The state does allow such evidence in limited instances, such as to prove a motive or plan, but the rules are determined by existing legal precedent, rather than state law.

The bill would make clear that evidence of previous sexual offenses can be heard in sex crimes cases, even if those prior allegations are not directly part of the underlying criminal charges. The proposal would also give judges discretion to not allow such testimony if it would create "undue prejudice" against a defendant.

Sponsors of the bill said its language is similar to a standard used by the federal government and more than a dozen other states.

The Legal Aid Society, which provides free legal representation, has warned that the proposal would confuse jurors by allowing too much outside evidence at trials and would result in unfair convictions.

Weinstein has denied the charges against him in New York, which include allegedly raping an aspiring actor and sexually assaulting a production assistant. His 2020 conviction was a major moment in the #MeToo movement. The Manhattan district attorney's office is seeking to retry him as soon as September.

Graceland foreclosure sale halted as Presley estate's lawsuit moves forward

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A judge on Wednesday said Elvis Presley's estate could be successful in arguing that a company's attempt to auction Graceland is fraudulent as he halted a foreclosure sale of the beloved Memphis tourist attraction.

Later Wednesday, a statement from someone who appeared to be a representative of the company said it would drop its claim, which the Presley estate has argued is based on fake documents. Online court records did not immediately show any legal filings suggesting the claim had been dropped.

Shelby County Chancellor JoeDae Jenkins issued a temporary injunction against the proposed auction that had been scheduled for Thursday in Memphis, where the king of rock 'n' roll's former home is located. Jenkins' injunction essentially keeps in place a previous restraining order issued at the request of Presley's granddaughter Riley Keough.

"Graceland is a part of this community, well-loved by this community and indeed around the world," the judge said.

A public notice for a foreclosure sale of the 13-acre estate posted earlier in May said Promenade Trust, which controls the Graceland museum, owes $3.8 million after failing to repay a 2018 loan. Keough, an actor, inherited the trust and ownership of the home after the death of her mother, Lisa Marie Presley, last year.

Naussany Investments and Private Lending said Lisa Marie Presley had used Graceland as collateral for the loan, according to the foreclosure sale notice. A lawsuit filed last week by Keough alleged that Naussany presented fraudulent documents regarding the loan in September 2023.

"Lisa Maria Presley never borrowed money from Naussany Investments and never gave a deed of trust to Naussany Investments," Keough's lawyer wrote in a lawsuit.

Neither Keough nor lawyers for Naussany Investments were in court Wednesday. Keough's attorney, Jeff Germany, said outside of court that he has not had direct contact with representatives from Naussany.

Naussany did file an unsuccessful motion denying the lawsuit's allegations and opposing the estate's request for an injunction.

A statement emailed to The Associated Press after Wednesday's ruling said Naussany would not proceed because a key document in the case and the loan were recorded and obtained in a different state, meaning that "legal action would have to be filed in multiple states." The statement, which was sent from an email address listed in court documents, did not specify the other state.

"The company will be withdrawing all claims with prejudice," the statement said.

Friendship's decline doesn't stop a solicitation for cash

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Gene" and I have been friends since elementary school. We're now in our 50s. We were inseparable best friends all those years. When we were about 30, I started noticing our friendship seemed to be a one-way street because he made no effort to initiate contact.

Gene was gracious and inviting if I called him, but he never called me. Instead, he focused on friends he could benefit from professionally and withdrew from old friends like me. About 20 years ago, I stopped calling him and decided to move on with other friends who were more congenial and courteous.

You could count on one hand how many times I've seen or spoken to Gene in the past 10 years, but today I received a graduation invitation from his son who wants a cash gift for his high school graduation. Abby, his son wouldn't know me if I tapped him on the shoulder. To say I was appalled is an understatement.

I feel no obligation to send money to someone I don't know, and even less than that given the way Gene abandoned our decades-long friendship years ago. How can I handle this tactfully without coming across as rude or bitter?

SHOCKED IN THE BLUEGRASS STATE

DEAR SHOCKED: The polite way to handle it would be to send the young man a congratulatory card, wishing him well.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I just said goodbye to my third beloved pet. Even though it has gotten easier over time, each passing has been devastating, and I have grieved deeply over their loss. When my mom passed a few years back, I was with her during that peaceful moment. I felt sadness, but nothing approaching the level as it has been with my pets.

My father's time is growing near, yet I don't feel sadness. I have had loving relationships with my parents, but not like some of my friends who described their parents as their rock or their best friend.

I'm worried that I lack something in my heart, and I should be feeling a greater loss for humans than for pets. Please help me make sense of this. I don't feel OK.

GRIEVING DIFFERENTLY IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRIEVING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your pet, and please stop flogging yourself for your feelings (or lack thereof). Everyone grieves differently. It is possible that you were able to accept the death of your mother because you were no longer interacting with her on the emotional level your friends did with their parents. The same may be true for your father.

Your pets, on the other hand, were a source of emotional support on a daily basis. Sometimes pets become the equivalents of children, and the loss of that "child" can be more painful than losing one's parents.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: A very dear relative has just announced her engagement. This will be her third marriage. Are gifts necessary?

HOPE NOT IN NEBRASKA

DEAR HOPE NOT: If you attend the festivities, you shouldn't come empty-handed. Some sort of gift is necessary. However, if you have generously shelled out for your relative's first two marriages, your third gift need only be something modest you think the couple might enjoy.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

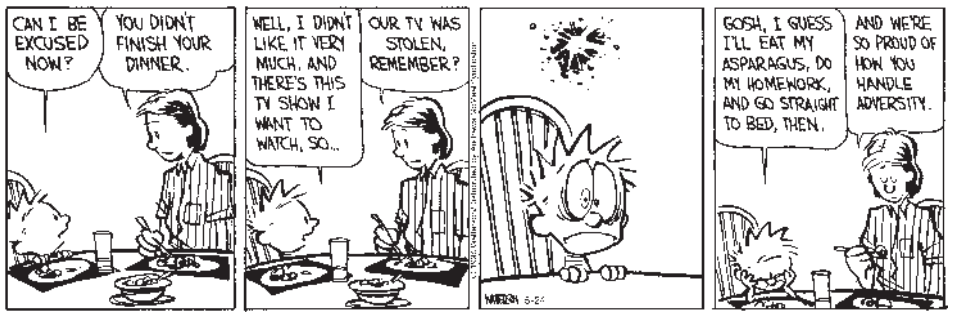
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

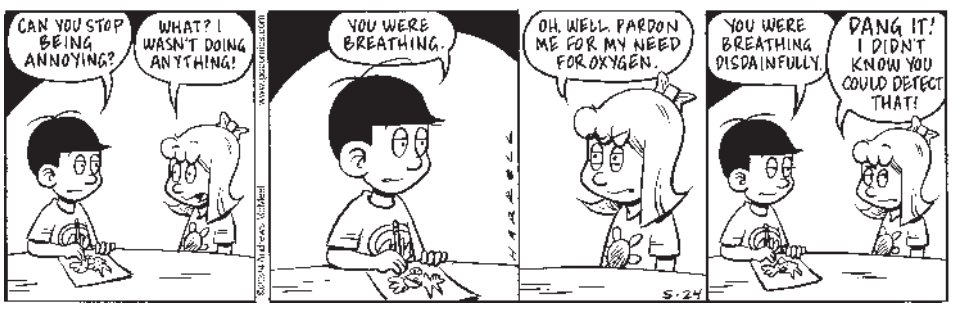

CAN I BE EXCUSED NOW?
YOU DIDN'T FINISH YOUR DINNER.
WELL, I DIDN'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH, AND THERE'S THIS TV SHOW I WANT TO WATCH, SO...
OUR TV WAS STOLEN, REMEMBER?
GOSH, I GUESS I'LL EAT MY ASPARAGUS, DO MY HOMEWORK, AND GO STRAIGHT TO BED, THEN.
AND WE'RE SO PROUD OF HOW YOU HANDLE ADVERSITY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN YOU STOP BEING ANNOYING?
WHAT? I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING!
YOU WERE BREATHING.
OH. WELL, PARDON ME FOR MY NEED FOR OXYGEN.
YOU WERE BREATHING DISDAINFULLY.
DANG IT! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DETECT THAT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

...AND I'LL HAVE A HOT DOG.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER DINNER?
CONSIDERING YOU ORDERED THE LOBSTER TAIL, I'LL BE SELLING A KIDNEY. HOW IS YOUR GRANDMA'S HEALTH?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

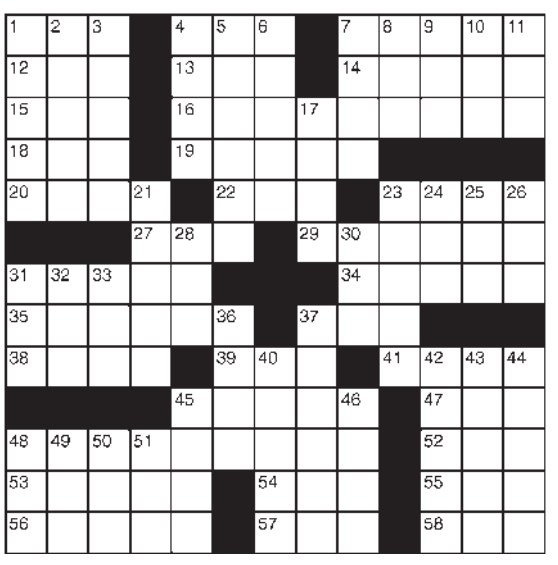
ACROSS
1 "You've got mail" co.
4 "Survivor" airer
7 In a way, slangily
12 Hindu honorific
13 Grazing tract
14 Wanted poster info
15 D.C. figure
16 Fragrant moisturizer
18 — tizzy (worked up)
19 Reverent
20 Designer Chanel
22 Computer key
23 Antitoxins
27 "Way cool!"
29 Fry cook's need
31 "Encore!"
34 Tennis legend Ivan
35 Group that includes Exxon-Mobil and Shell
37 R&B singer Des'—
38 Flair
39 Ab — (from the start)
41 Drudge
45 Crop up
47 Payable
48 Discover black gold
52 Econ. measure
53 Texas cook-off dish
54 Author Tolstoy
55 Obamacare initialism
56 Macho types
57 Shapiro of NPR
58 Seminary subj.

DOWN
1 Jellied entree
2 Maine college town
3 Pale purple
4 Applaud
5 Contradicted
6 Aegean island
7 Without
8 — Faithful
9 2016 Olympics city
10 — chi
11 Visual communication syst.
17 "I stubbed my toe!"
21 Hunter in the sky
23 Pricey
24 A gazillion years
25 Free (of)
26 100%
28 Blackbird
30 Flamenco cheer
31 Copper head?
32 Baseball's Hodges
33 Khan title
36 Traditional tales
37 More promising
40 "Fences" actress Davis
42 Mystery-writing award
43 Pound fraction
44 Kathmandu's land
45 Similar
46 Sci-fi race
48 Learning ctr.
49 Common title start
50 Crater part
51 — -de-France

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	A		D	I	S	C		B	F	F	S
E	A	R		R	O	A	R		A	L	E	E
A	R	T	H	O	U	S	E		R	A	M	A
			F	I	N		S	F	N	F	G	A	I
T	O	R	T	E	S		P	A	X			
A	R	I		S	I	A		P	A	P	A	L
I	F	E	S		T	O	V		M	I	I	I
C	O	S	T	A		L	O	S		U	R	L
			A	N	N		W	H	I	M	S	Y
F	L	A	T	T	E	N		A	C	T		
E	I	R	E		E	Y	E	C	H	A	R	T
N	A	I	L		D	A	N	K		R	O	C
D	R	A	Y		A	D	O	S		T	E	E

Yesterday's answer 5-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nikki Reed, 36; Derek Hough, 39; Trent Reznor, 59; Craig Ferguson, 62.

Happy Birthday: You have more going for you than you realize. Embrace life; don't let it pass you by. Take the plunge and do what motivates you. Get involved, expand your knowledge, skills and experience, and get out and enjoy what life has to offer. This year is about movement, taking a chance and following your heart. It's up to you to make things happen. Stop dreaming and start doing. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 29, 31, 34, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep moving, but pay attention to detail and oversee every step to ensure you get the most out of your day. Refrain from sharing financial information or secrets to your success, regardless of who applies pressure. Work hard and reap the rewards.✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't fold under pressure. Clear your head, look at the facts and start your journey. Listen, share ideas and participate in events and activities that interest you. If you are willing to step up and participate, there is plenty to gain. Embrace change and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Hide out and accomplish all you can. What you achieve will be impressive and influence how others treat you. A change at home or to how you handle work will turn out better than anticipated. Trust and believe in yourself and your ability to excel. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Establish your intentions, make connections and participate in events to help you excel. Take the initiative, and be the one to motivate and influence what happens next. Feel free to initiate a move when change is necessary. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Oversee every detail. Incorporate wiggle room to offset a wrong move or unexpected adjustment that might cost you. Staying ahead of the crowd is one of your fortes but will require fancy footwork. Stifle anyone who tries to pressure you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Enjoy life. Who or what you encounter will pique your curiosity and encourage you to expand your skills and knowledge. What you add to your resume will enable you to explore your options. A change of pace, place or people will support positive change. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't spend frivolously. Invest your time, energy and cash into getting ahead and securing your position and prospects to promote your desired lifestyle. Pressure tactics won't work, but premium products and offers will. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Build momentum; you will want to continue once you start. Get the energy flowing and see what happens. The people you attract and the opportunities you develop will pave the way to success if you respond quickly. A positive change in your personal life is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take it easy, be a good listener and don't offer personal information that someone can use against you. Focus on your responsibilities and finish what you start to avoid being judged harshly by someone trying to outmaneuver you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Engage, experience what life offers and spend time with someone who makes you think. A change to how or what you pursue will be influenced by who you are with and what you do next. Gather information and use your skills to accommodate what's trending. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* If something doesn't feel right, take a pass. Don't be coerced into being a follower. Put your energy into self-improvement, heading in a beneficial direction or walking away from negativity and interference. Be true to yourself and follow your heart. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stand your ground until you get what you want. Initiate change that will improve your relationships. Evaluate your position personally, financially and professionally, and adjust your lifestyle to fit the circumstances. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, curious and ambitious. You are innovative and dynamic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						3		2
8								
			1	5	6		9	
					2			4
6	1		9				8	7
						5	1	
9							2	
5	3			9				
		2	7			4		

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	7	4	9	5	8	1	2
4	9	8	2	3	1	7	6	5
1	2	5	7	6	8	3	9	4
7	4	9	5	2	6	1	8	3
8	1	2	3	7	9	5	4	6
6	5	3	1	8	4	9	2	7
9	3	4	8	5	2	6	7	1
2	7	6	9	1	3	4	5	8
5	8	1	6	4	7	2	3	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

STAGE PRODUCTIONS Solution: 6 letters

S	Y	T	C	E	F	F	E	L	A	I	C	E	P	S
E	T	I	D	E	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T
T	I	A	M	P	L	I	F	I	E	R	S	A	R	A
S	C	T	D	N	O	I	T	C	A	E	N	U	F	I
H	I	H	I	I	D	E	R	R	A	O	P	S	O	L
P	L	G	G	S	U	O	E	M	I	I	U	I	R	O
A	B	I	I	G	T	M	S	T	A	A	E	V	M	R
R	U	L	T	C	A	T	C	R	N	R	K	O	A	E
G	P	T	A	C	R	U	T	N	A	E	A	L	N	T
O	R	O	L	E	R	S	T	R	I	N	M	U	C	N
E	O	P	S	T	E	N	T	D	R	A	W	M	E	E
R	P	S	S	H	I	I	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	P
O	S	N	C	A	S	T	R	U	N	N	E	R	S	R
H	O	R	P	T	Y	A	W	D	A	O	R	B	U	A
C	O	O	R	D	I	N	A	T	E	T	A	E	R	C

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Action, Actor, Amplifier, Arena, Artist, Broadway, Camera, Carpenter, Cast, Choreograph, Construction, Coordinate, Create, Curtain, Digital, Draw, Edit, Effect, Makeup, Orchestra, Paint, Performance, Props, Publicity, Runners, Seamstress, Sets, Special, Spotlight, Stadium, Tailor, Television, Theater, Visual, Volume

Yesterday's Answer: Triple Gem

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Doncic, Mavs top Wolves in Game 1 of West finals

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Luka Doncic led a strong finish for the Dallas Mavericks, swishing crucial shots down the stretch, drawing a couple of fouls and even playing strong defense.

The Mavericks might not be the favorites in yet another series, but they stole home-court advantage from the Minnesota Timberwolves with this promising start.

Doncic had 15 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and Kyrie Irving scored 24 of his 30 in the first half to lift the Mavericks to a 108-105 victory over the Timberwolves in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday night.

Dallas had a 62-38 advantage in points in the paint to offset a 6-for-25 shooting performance from deep.

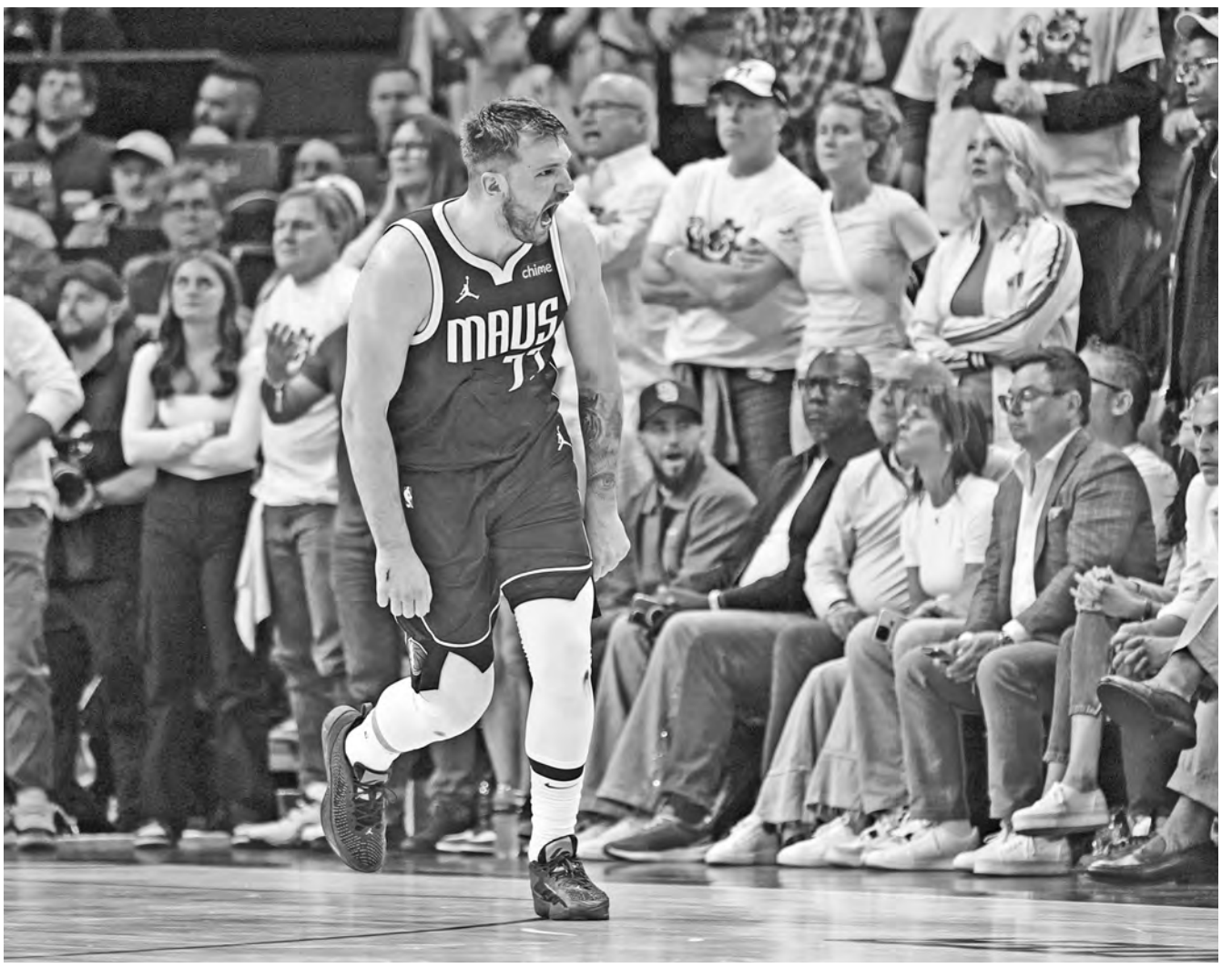
"We made important ones," said Doncic, who scored seven straight points over 63 seconds early in the fourth quarter to fuel a 13-0 run by the Mavericks for a 97-89 lead.

The Mavericks trailed 102-98 after a 3-pointer by Anthony Edwards with 3:37 left, before an 8-0 run the Wolves didn't stop until a tip-in with 10.5 seconds to go. For the first time in six tries under coach Jason Kidd, the Mavericks won the first game of a playoff series.

Jaden McDaniels had his third straight 20-plus-point game with 24 points for the Wolves, but Edwards—who earned his first All-NBA selection prior to the game, on the second team—was stifled for 19 points in a team effort from the Mavericks. Karl-Anthony Towns needed a late burst to get to 16 points and finished 6 for 20 from the floor.

The star power in this series is strong, and for the first night at least the Mavericks got what they needed from their leading duo while the Wolves largely struggled to run the offense around theirs.

"Terrible offense down the stretch: bad shots, turnovers, no composure," Wolves coach Chris Finch said. "We've got to be better in clutch moments."



AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) celebrates a score against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the second half in Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in Minneapolis.

Towns came to life with a long jumper, a lob to Rudy Gobert for a slam and a 3-pointer on a 2-minute burst to give the Wolves the lead back with 4:39 to go on the way to a 10-0 run that Doncic ended with a 3-pointer. P.J. Washington, who had 13 points and seven rebounds, hit from deep to put the Mavericks back in front with 1:56 to go.

Towns thought he tied the game with a putback dunk on the next possession, but that was waved off for basket interference.

Minnesota hosts Game 2 on Friday night.

Edwards, who went scoreless in the third quarter, added 11 rebounds and eight assists.

"He's an amazing player. We have to put multiple bodies on him," Doncic said. "If he's going 1-on-1, it's kind of tough to stop him."

Naz Reid had 15 points and Kyle Anderson added 11 points off the bench for the Wolves, who had two days off after dethroning defending champion Denver with a Game 7 comeback from a 20-point deficit to win the second-round series.

The transition was sharp from the Nuggets and NBA MVP Nikola Jokic's deliberate and powerful style to the pick-and-roll-heavy Mavericks, who frequently lost their opponents off screens for wide-open dunks. They moved with a purpose that kept the Wolves from consistently setting their half-court defense around the NBA Defensive Player of the Year Gobert at the rim.

Irving's stunning burst on the break and on the drive presented a unique challenge the Wolves and their league-leading defense didn't face in the last round, when they held the Nuggets to an average of 85 points over their four wins.

"He got us going. Without him, we would probably be down 20 at halftime," Doncic said. "I had to help him in the second half a little bit. So we switched roles this time."

McDaniels, who played his usual relentless defense on the perimeter, was the catalyst on the other end of the court too with five 3-pointers in the first half, but Towns had trouble getting shots to fall and Edwards found his driving lanes constantly clogged.

"Jaden was the only one that came ready to play tonight," Edwards said, "and I think everyone else let him down."

The Mavericks have cranked up their defense since adding Daniel Gafford and Washington at the trade deadline, as top-seeded Oklahoma City can attest after losing in six games in the last round. Doncic chipped in, too, breaking up a lob from Mike Conley to Gobert for one of his three steals with 1:06 remaining and the Mavericks leading by two.

"No one panicked. There was just a lot of trust, no matter how bad or how good we're playing," Kidd said.

Brunson has surgery to repair broken left hand, and Knicks say Bogdanovic also underwent procedure

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson has had surgery to repair the broken left hand he sustained while the New York Knicks were losing Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Knicks also said Wednesday that reserve Bojan Bogdanovic had surgery on his left wrist. No details were provided about either procedure except that both players would be evaluated again in six to eight weeks.

Brunson was hurt in the third quarter of the Indiana Pacers' 130-109 victory over the Knicks on Sunday. He finished with 17 points, his lowest of a postseason in which he scored 40 or more five times, becoming just the fourth player to reach that mark in four consecutive postseason games.

He finished with 32.4 points per game in the playoffs, second only to the 33 that Joel Embiid averaged when the Knicks beat the Philadelphia 76ers in six games in the first round.

Bogdanovic was hurt in Game 4 of that series. He had scored 13 off the bench in Game 1 and became one of the Knicks' many missing players as the season finished.

Julius Randle had season-ending surgery after dislocating his shoulder in January and Mitchell Robinson had surgery on his ankle during the playoffs.

James extends his All-NBA appearance record, while Doncic, Gilgeous-Alexander set for supermax deals

NEW YORK (AP)—LeBron James is now the youngest—and the oldest—player to make an All-NBA team. And Dallas' Luka Doncic and Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander are in position to make around $1 million per game a few years from now.

Denver's Nikola Jokic and Gilgeous-Alexander were the only unanimous first-team selections on this season's All-NBA team, which was revealed by the league on Wednesday night. They were joined on the first team by Doncic, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo and Boston's Jayson Tatum.

On the second team: New York's Jalen Brunson, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, Phoenix's Kevin Durant, the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard and James' Los Angeles Lakers teammate, Anthony Davis.

The third team had James, Golden State's Stephen Curry, Sacramento's Domantas Sabonis, Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton and Phoenix's Devin Booker.

The NBA changed the rules starting with this season and All-NBA voting is now positionless—as opposed to having two guards, two forwards and one center on each of the teams, a formula that had been in place since the 1950s. Players also had to appear in a minimum number of games, in most cases, to be eligible for award consideration from the panel of 99 broadcasters and writers who served as the voting panel.

For James, who was the youngest player to make All-NBA when he was voted onto the team for the 2004-05 season, another selection only added to his list of accomplishments.

The 20 All-NBA overall picks extended his record, a total that's now five more than Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. His 20 consecutive selections is obviously another record, and he's the first player to be age 39 or older during what became an All-NBA regular season.

Abdul-Jabbar and Duncan were both just a few days from turning 39 when the regular seasons ended in what became their final All-NBA campaigns, Abdul-Jabbar's being 1985-86 and Duncan's being 2014-15. James—the NBA's career scoring leader—played in 71 games this season, the last 42 of those coming after he turned 39.

And for Doncic and Gilgeous-Alexander, the All-NBA nods mean they are poised for supermax extensions that can be signed in 2025, both of which would set records.

Doncic can sign a five-year deal worth about $347 million, starting at nearly $60 million in 2026-27 and ending at about $79 million in 2030-31. Gilgeous-Alexander will be eligible to sign a four-year extension worth about $294 million. His would start in 2027-28 at around $65 million—and the final year, 2030-31, would see him earning just over $81 million, or nearly $1 million per game. It would be the first time an NBA player's annual salary has topped $80 million.

Also seeing major financial boosts from their All-NBA selections were Edwards and Haliburton, both of whom agreed to extensions last summer that were to be worth about $205 million—and now will be worth about $245 million over the next five seasons.

Durant made All-NBA for the 11th time, tying for the 12th-most in NBA history.

Carlos Correa homers to lead Twins over Nationals, 3-2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Carlos Correa hit a solo home run and made a diving play to prevent a game-tying run, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Washington Nationals 3-2 on Wednesday.

Max Kepler also had a solo shot, doubled and scored a late run to win the game and series, which the Twins entered having lost seven in a row.

Minnesota starter Simeon Woods allowed three hits and a walk over 4 and 2/3 scoreless innings, and Steven Okert (1-0) retired four straight batters—after hopping on the Nationals' bullpen cart and tipping his driver—for the first win of his career with the Twins.

Joey Meneses homered for Washington, which lost its seventh out of eight.

AP

Minnesota Twins shortstop Carlos Correa throws to first to put out Washington Nationals' Nick Senzel during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in Washington. The Twins won 3-2.

CARDINALS 3, ORIOLES 1, 1ST GAME CARDINALS 5, ORIOLES 4, 2ND GAME

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Brendan Donovan doubled home two runs and scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error, lifting St. Louis to a win over Baltimore in the finale of the three-game series.

The game had a 1 hour, 25 minute rain delay.

Nolan Gorman homered and drove in all three St. Louis runs, and Lance Lynn pitched six solid innings to help the Cardinals beat the Baltimore Orioles 3-1 earlier Wednesday. The game was suspended because of rain after a 91-minute delay Tuesday night with the teams tied 1-1 in the middle of the sixth inning.

It was the first series sweep this season for the Cardinals, who have won eight of their last 10 games.

GUARDIANS 6, METS 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Johnathan Rodriguez singled home David Fry in the seventh inning for his first major league hit, driving in the go-ahead run for Cleveland in a victory over the N.Y. Mets.

Rodriguez, playing in his second game since being recalled from Triple-A Columbus two days earlier, slapped a grounder through the right side of the infield off Reed Garrett (5-1) to snap a 3-all tie.

The AL Central-leading Guardians, who trailed 3-0 going into the sixth, moved into a tie for the second-best record in the majors at 33-17. Cleveland extended its winning streak to a season-high six and swept the Mets for the first time as a franchise.

José Ramírez and Kyle Manzardo tacked on RBI doubles in the eighth against Adam Ottavino. Andrés Giménez began the comeback with a three-run, tying homer in the sixth off New York starter Jose Quintana.

ANGELS 2, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Rookie Kyren Paris hit a two-run shot for his first major league home run and Tyler Anderson pitched eight strong innings to lead the L.A. Angels to a win over Houston.

The Angels took two of three games from the Astros to give them three straight road series wins in a single season for the first time since 2019.

Anderson (5-4) allowed six hits and one run in his third consecutive win, which came in his longest start of the season. Luis García struck out two in a scoreless ninth for his third save.

ROYALS 8, TIGERS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Cole Ragans allowed one hit in six innings and Freddy Fermin drove in three runs as Kansas City beat Detroit Tigers for a series sweep.

Ragans (4-3) struck out a career-best 12 while holding the Tigers hitless until Riley Greene's two-out single in the sixth.

The Royals opened the scoring in the second on Fermin's one-out RBI double off the top of the left-centerfield wall. One out later, Garrett Hampson followed with an RBI double for a 2-0 lead.

Nelson Velázquez hit his fourth home run into the left-field fountains to lead off the fourth.

MARLINS 1, BREWERS 0

MIAMI (AP)—Jesús Luzardo threw eight scoreless innings of three-hit ball in his longest career start and Miami beat Milwaukee.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered for the only run of the game as the Marlins won their third consecutive series.

The game was completed in 1 hour and 54 minutes.

Luzardo (2-3) struck out four and retired 17 straight until Gary Sanchez's one out single in the eighth. Jackson Chourio reached on a fielder's choice then stole second before Luzardo finished his outing by retiring Owen Miller on a fly-out to short right.

PADRES 7, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Luis Arraez went 4 for 5 with a home run and two RBIs and San Diego beat Cincinnati.

He led off with his first homer of the season off Nick Martinez (1-3). It was his first home run since Sept. 16, 2023 when he also led off with a homer against Atlanta. Arraez, who has 25 home runs in 585 games, has seven leadoff homers for his career.

Jeimer Candelario's fifth home run of the season tied the score 1-1 in the first. That was the Reds' only hit until Candelario singled with two outs in the sixth.

San Diego scored four runs on five hits in the fifth, including an RBI double by Jurickson Profar to make the score 5-1.

PHILLIES 11, RANGERS 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper and J.T. Realmuto hit solo homers and Edmundo Sosa had a three-run shot to lead Philadelphia Texas.

Realmuto extended his hitting streak to 12 games and added three RBIs and Alec Bohm hit a two-RBI double in the sixth inning that made it 10-3 and gave him an NL-best 46 RBIs.

The Phillies won their fifth straight game, 17 of 20 overall and are 21-8 at home—and winners of 17 of 19 at Citizens Bank Park.

RED SOX 8, RAYS 5

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Wilyer Abreu and Connor Wong both drove in two runs, Brayan Bello overcome a tough second to go six innings and Boston beat Tampa Bay to complete a three-game sweep.

Boston swept the Rays on the road for the first time since April 19-21, 2019. The Red Sox had lost 15 of their previous 16 games at Tampa Bay entering the series.

Boston star Rafael Devers had his 11-game hitting streak end after going 0 for 4. His team record of homering in six consecutive games was stopped on Tuesday night.

BLUE JAYS 9, WHITE SOX 2

TORONTO (AP)—Bo Bichette homered and had three RBIs, Daulton Varsho reached base three times and drove in a pair, and Toronto used a seven-run second inning to beat the Chicago White Sox.

By taking two of three from Chicago, the Blue Jays won a series for the first time since taking two of three at San Diego from April 19 to 21.

Chris Bassitt (4-6) allowed five hits in a season-high seven innings to win for the second time in three starts. Bassitt walked two and struck out four.

BRAVES 9, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Max Fried struck out nine while throwing a three-hitter for his second complete game of the season, and Atlanta Braves beat Justin Steele and the Chicago Cubs.

Marcell Ozuna, Matt Olson and Adam Duvall homered for Atlanta, which had dropped five of six. The Braves were 2 for 7 with runners in scoring position one night after they went 0 for 14 in those situations in a 10-inning loss in the series opener.

Fried (4-2) retired his first 15 batters before Ian Happ hit a leadoff double in the sixth. Happ and Dansby Swanson singled in the eighth for Chicago's other two hits.

YANKEES 7, MARINERS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Juan Soto homered twice, Aaron Judge and Alex Verdugo also went deep and the New York Yankees beat Seattle to stop their first two-game losing streak in three weeks.

Nelson Cortes (3-4) gritted through five scoreless innings for the AL-best Yankees (34-17), who improved to 3-0 when Judge and Soto both homer. The three homers by Soto and Judge were opposite-field drives off Bryce Miller (3-5).

Soto had three RBIs with his second multihomer game of the homestand and 19th of his career. He has 13 homers and 40 RBIs, while Judge has 14 homers—11 since late April—and 34 RBIs.

GIANTS 9, PITATES 5, 10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Patrick Bailey hit the first of three RBI singles in a four-run 10th inning, and San Francisco rallied from a five-run deficit for a win over Pittsburgh.

Bailey started with a single to right off Carmen Mlodzinski (0-1), scoring automatic runner Thairo Estrada, before Jorge Soler followed with one up the middle to bring in Matt Chapman. A sacrifice fly from Brett Wisely plated Bailey ahead of another RBI single from Luis Matos.

Ryan Walker (4-2) struck out one in a perfect ninth for San Francisco, which blew a 6-2 lead in the ninth inning Tuesday before losing 7-6 in 10 innings to open the three-game series.

Chapman hit a two-run home run off Pittsburgh rookie Jared Jones in the sixth to follow an RBI single from Soler an inning before, cutting what had been a five-run deficit to 5-3 in the sixth.

Aroldis Chapman walked the first three Giants batters in the eighth before being pulled for Colin Holderman. After Bailey struck out, LaMonte Wade Jr. scored from third on a fielder's choice just in front of the plate from Soler before Heliot Ramos went down swinging to end the threat.

Holderman gave up a two-out single in the ninth to Matos, who went to second on an error by Bryan Reynolds in left. Wade tied it 5-all with an RBI single to right.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, DODGERS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ryne Nelson threw five shutout innings, Christian Walker and Ketel Marte homered and Arizona beat the Los Angeles Dodgers to win a series at Dodger Stadium for the first time since 2018.

The D-backs took the final two games from the NL West-leading Dodgers, who were outscored 17-9 in the three-game set and dropped two in a row for just the second time since April 21. They were shut out for the third time this season, all in series finales.

Nelson (3-3) took over from opener Brandon Hughes and allowed five hits, struck out five and walked three.

Gabriel Moreno walked and Kevin Newman singled before Corbin Carroll's two-strike triple to right off Tyler Glasnow (6-3) in the fifth. Carroll scored on Glasnow's wild pitch—his eighth of the season—that bounced in front of the plate, off the left shoulder of catcher Will Smith and down the third-base line, giving Arizona a 3-0 lead.

Glasnow had his first balk since 2018 in the third. The right-hander gave up three runs and four hits in five innings. He struck out six and walked one.

ROCKIES 4, ATHLETICS 3, 12 INNINGS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a two-run home run in the 12th inning, and Colorado hung on to beat Oakland Athletics.

Elias Díaz had three hits including a two-run home run, while Brendan Rogers and Hunter Goodman each added a pair of hits to help Colorado snap a four-game losing streak. Before the skid, the Rockies had won seven consecutive games for their longest streak in nearly five years.

Jake Cave began the 12th inning at second base and advanced to third on Ezequiel Tovar's groundout. McMahon then hit his ninth homer of the season in a 2-2 slider from Kyle Muller (0-1).

The A's scored an unearned run in the bottom of the 12th and had two runners on base before Matt Koch got Max Schuemann to fly out for his first save of the season.

Nick Mears (1-3) retired four batters for the win.

Peyton has no desire to go from broadcasting to NFL executive position

DENVER (AP)—Peyton Manning was honored for his community work at a banquet Wednesday night. Ahead of the event, he was asked if he had any desire to run an NFL franchise and he said he'd rather stick to his "Monday Night Football" Manningcast with brother Eli that just won its second Sports Emmy award.

"Eli and I really have a lot of fun doing the show. I think a big reason for that is I do it from here in Denver and he does it from New Jersey," Manning said. "I think we're very happy about being able to do it and be home on the weekends and be home 10 minutes after the show."

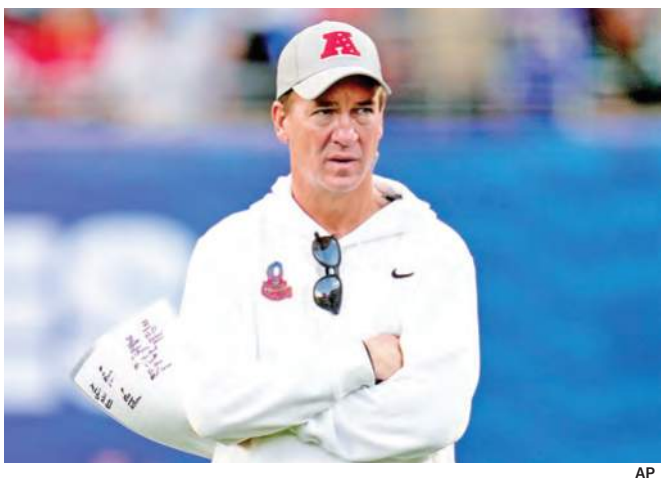
Manning said the livecast allows the brothers to "still be a part of our kids' lives on the weekend."

Manning and his wife have 13-year-old twins, Marshall and Mosley.

"Mosley plays volleyball and I go to her games from like 4 to 5 on Mondays and I drive over to my buddy's garage and get to call a Monday Night Football game," Manning said. "It doesn't really make a lot of sense. And for some reason they've renewed us to do it.

"So, yeah, and this year we're going to add Bill Belichick. Now, explain that! I was kind of wondering if I've been hit in the head too many times," the Hall of Famer cracked. "He's being courted by the other networks and I was recruiting a guy that pretty much made a lot of my life miserable."

Manning said he's eager for what the defensive perspective the former New England Patriots coach will bring. "So, to have that different perspective on every game that Eli and I are doing this year I think will be awesome," Manning said.



AP

AFC coach Peyton Manning watches during the flag football event at the NFL Pro Bowl football game Feb. 4, 2024, in Orlando, Fla.

Manning made his comments to reporters ahead of a receiving the 2024 Community Enrichment Award from the Mizel Institute in Denver.

"I'm not sure I'm completely worthy, but community service is something that's always been important to me," Manning said, adding he was following in his father Archie's footsteps and heeding the advice of his former coach, Tony Dungy, in being involved in the community.

Manning's philanthropic endeavors include his Peyback Foundation, which focuses on helping disadvantaged youth.

Manning said community service was important to him during his career and "once you retire you have more time to do it. So, I've just really enjoyed being a part of this community for the last 12 years and I think we're here for the long haul."

Same with his post-playing career focus.

As Manning headed into retirement a month after winning the Super Bowl in 2016, there was speculation he'd follow John Elway's path from quarterback great to NFL executive. But Manning instead has focused on building his Omaha Productions footprint and reiterated he has no plans to join or run a football franchise.

"No, I don't think that's anywhere on my radar by any means. But look, I love being an ambassador for the Broncos, for the Colts and the University of Tennessee," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MICHELOB ULTRA CUP STANDINGS

Team Marianas	10	0
Bridge Capital	9	1
New Chang Ming	8	2
Saints	7	2
La Mesa Kusina	5	5
Martech Ol'Aces	4	5
Pegs	4	6
Brothers	4	6
Akkari EET 1	5	6
Akkari Ruuw 2	2	7
Lakay	1	8
Shirley's	0	10

NSA BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINHGS

Majors		
Braves	5	0
Ol'Aces	4	1
Comets	3	2
Lil' Cubs	3	2
Marlins	2	2
Lil' Blue Jays	1	2
Cobras	0	4
Pirates	0	4
Juniors		
Phillies	4	0
Braves Jr.	3	1
Blue Jays Jr.	1	3
Comets Jr.	0	4

ANTONI

From page 28

hosted him for the first time on the university's Junior Day last February, and he returned for an official visit last May 3.

Ogumoro is graduating high school early this December in Elgin High School, Oklahoma, and is suiting up in orange and ready to take on the college gridiron in Spring 2025. With his early graduation, he said he learned that coaches like when a recruit enrolls early before spring season so they can get some practices in and pretty much just get the process started.

"It's an advantage because I basically get a big head start. When I learned this, I started taking steps to ensure I could graduate early if I chose. I took some college courses, AP classes and summer classes as well to get ahead of the game," he said.

The son of former CNMI national basketball team member Ambrose Ogumoro and his wife, former CNMI national volleyball team member, Mayumi Aguon, Antoni decided to take up a Bachelor's Degree in Sports Science after he had a "great athletic trainer [Marissa Underwood] in high school and watching her work sparked my interest in the field."

The decision-making process for a university was marked by a lot of praying and talks with his parents and grandparents as well. Antoni said, "In the end, I chose the best school that not only fit me but fit my family."

For Antoni, the most important factor in deciding was to make sure they offered the course that he wanted to pursue. Secondly, he said, "football is a very physical and demanding sport and I need a school that prioritizes recovery, rehab, and therapy with a strong medical support staff."

He said that his campus visit played a huge role in his decision and it was clear not only for himself but his family as well that Tennessee went through great lengths to take care of them.

"They did so much for my little brother [Troy Isaias] who has autism and can sometimes get overwhelmed and overstimulated when taken out of his routine. They had a sensory room made up for him that he loved and didn't want to leave. They had three autism professionals on hand to help us with my brother and this was the first visit where both my parents could do the tours together because there were people they could trust to be with Troy and they texted my parents giving them updates on his well-being. Coach [Josh] Heupel opened his home to us and hosted us for dinner. We got to meet his wife and they welcomed Troy and said he could swim in their pool," said Antoni.

On Tennessee's coaching staff, Antoni said they are "great! They started recruiting me in November of last year and as the months went by, my relationship with [head] coach Heupel, [offensive line] coach [Glen] Elarbee, and [offensive line graduate assistant coach] K.P. just got stronger. I respect these men and I know my future is in great hands under their guidance."

His goals for his college football career both on and off the field is first, to graduate and then possibly pursue a master's degree. Second, "in terms of football, I just want to improve everyday in this sport. I am very new to this game and everyday is a learning experience for me. I aim to be the best player I can be and God willing, with the right training and guidance I pray I make it to the next level," said the future UT Vol.

His advice to young aspiring athletes? "Honor your mother and father and show them respect always. I was taught this from a young age to respect my parents and my elders…"

Next, he said, "Focus on school and strive to get good grades… and be coachable and humble."

He then thanked "VolNation for embracing me and my family! I'm excited to wear that orange and get on the field and put in some work!"

"Thank you to my parents and brother who have been with me in this process every step of the way. Without them I'd be nothing. Thank you to my coaches for believing in me and taking time out of their day to train me and mold me into a great athlete. Thank you to my family and friends who are always there supporting me through it all and always giving me that extra push when I need it."

Ambrose, for his part said, "Honestly, it's been a journey with his transition from basketball to football and excelling at this sport. Just feel blessed as a family that we're in this position and just extremely happy for Antoni's success not only to represent our family, but Micronesia as a whole on this level."

"As for Antoni's decision, my wife Mayumi and I would sit down with him after every visit to a school and go over the pros and cons and what stood out. Then he would keep a journal and write down his thoughts [at] that moment. Overall, it played a big role on how he was able to process and select a school that had a great education and great football program as well as the overall fit into the culture of that particular school, from players, to coaches, to the staff."

Antoni is flying home on May 25 to be a part of the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team in the Micronesian Games. "Basketball was my first sport and I still play it even though football is my main sport now," he said.

Antoni's grandparents are Ambrosio Ogumoro and Felicidad Kaipat Ogumoro of Capitol Hill and Rufino and Carol Aguon of Kagman. Rufino Aguon incidentally is Ambrose Ogumoro's former coach in the CNMI national basketball team. He will also be Antoni's coach in the Micro Games this summer in Majuro.

TEAM

From page 28

of Ervin Villarin visited the charity line multiple times, but it was not enough to stump Team Marianas' momentum.

At the end of the game, Santos collected the most points for Team Marianas with 15, while Rabauliman was at 14 markers, and Jack Lizama contributed 12.

Villarin had a game-high 17 points, J.R. Galang was at 10, and Leo Apelo registered 8 points.

In other results last Tuesday, 670 Akkari-EET 1 pushed past Pegs, 80-75. Last Wednesday, Bridge Capital pummeled Brothers, 91-77. The Lakay vs. Ol'Aces game was rescheduled due to a power outage. Last Monday, the Saints beat Lakay, 112-60, while Shirley's forfeited against New Chang Ming.

Team Marianas 102 – Santos 15, Rabauliman 14, Lizama 12, Aferson Atan 11, Airson Atan 9, Ong 8, Dela Cruz 8, Schmidt 8, Basa 8, Sablan 7, Aldan 2.

La Mesa Kusina 56 – Villarin 17, Galang 10, Apelo 8, Tekopua 7, Sablan 6, Gutierrez 4, Aldan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-9, 45-29, 69-50, 102-56.

UNDEFEATED

From page 28

Ol'Aces in the third inning.

That was the only blunder though as pitcher Dayton Marchadesch brought his heaters and registered nine strikeouts. Marchadesch's offense was also on fire after a three-run first inning from the top of the lineup. Marchadesch scored the first run, followed by Dylan Barcinas and Elijah Babauta.

Two runs would score in the second for a 5-0 Braves lead, then the floodgates opened in the third as they scored 12 runs. In the end, Ol'Aces' lone run was a tiny prick in the Braves' 17-1 win.

Last Sunday, the Phillies remained undefeated as they scored 10 more runs against Comets Jr., 15-5.

The Comets struck first as they scored four in the first inning, but the Phillies' offense was a floodgate just waiting to burst open.

It didn't take long as the Comets held onto the lead only until the second inning when the Phillies scored four to tie it up, 5-5.

From there, the Phillies racked up four runs in the third and fourth. In the last inning, they added three more for a 15-5 game.

The Phillies' Jequinn Lizama reached base safely in all three plate appearances and scored two runs, while Jesus Santos scored two runs as well after getting on base twice.

In other results last Saturday, the Comets blasted the Pirates, 24-9, and Lil' Cubs clobbered the Cobras, 19-15. Last Sunday, Ol'Aces beat the Marlins, 11-1, and the Braves Jr. team defeated the Blue Jays Jr. team, 13-12.

In the standings after the Braves are Ol'Aces at 4-1; Comets and Lil' Cubs are tied with 3-2; Marlins are at an even 2-2; Lil' Blue Jays are 1-2; and Cobras and Pirates have yet to win with four losses.

After the Phillies are Braves Jr. at 3-1; Blue Jays Jr. are 1-3; and Comets Jr. have zero wins and four losses.

NSA

The Phillies Junior League team in the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League poses for a photo at the Capitol Hill Softball Field.

Doncic, Mavs top Wolves in Game 1 of West finals.

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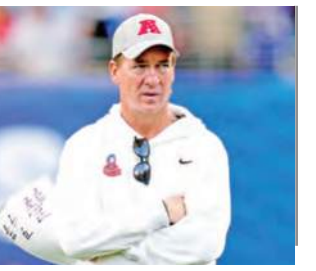
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Peyton has no desire to go from broadcasting to NFL executive position

PAGE 27



Antoni commits to Tennessee

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

From the basketball courts to the college gridiron, the CNMI's Antoni Kade Ogumoro ended his junior year of high school with a bang as he announced his commitment to the University of Tennessee on social media in an widely anticipated livestream watched by hundreds of people last Wednesday.

The 6'5" and 320-lb son of the Pacific decided to ride on his recently found football talents and accepted a full-ride scholarship to Knoxville and become a part of the Tennessee Volunteers football program (variously called Tennessee, Volunteers, Vols, UT, and Big Orange)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Son of Micronesia, Antoni Kade Ogumoro, with the CNMI, Palau, and Marshall Islands roots proudly displays this custom flag during his official visit with the University of Tennessee earlier this month. He announced last Wednesday that he committed to play football for the Big Orange as he steps into his collegiate career in Spring

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI's Antoni Kade Ogumoro poses with University of Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel, left, and offensive line coach Glen Elarbee during his official visit with the University of Tennessee earlier this month.

He became UT's 10th commitment for the 2025 class and is currently ranked as the No. 492 overall prospect and No. 30 interior offensive lineman in the 2025 class, according to 247Sports Composite.

The university gave their offer last November—one amongst about 15 colleges/universities nationwide. UT

See ANTONI on Page 27

Team Marianas unscathed in Mich Cup

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Team Marianas is still unscathed with 10 wins in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup after another blowout win, 102-56, over La Mesa Kusina last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team Marianas is continuing to hone their skills and assert their dominance against local teams with the Micronesian Games just around the corner.

From the tip off, Team Marianas established their dominance and showcased their starters but also the depth in their bench as they quickly racked up points for a lopsided 23-9 first quarter that set the tone for the rest of the game.

NMIBF

Team Marianas' Djay Ong goes for a left-handed layup during one of their games in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

La Mesa was floored as they couldn't get past Team Marianas' defense and as they also flushed buckets from either angle of the court. In the blink of an eye, the first half ended on a 16-point, 45-29 Team Marianas margin.

Coby Santos was the mainstay and extended his contribution to Team Marianas' onslaught in the second half. He, along with Aferson Atan and Marvin Rabauliman kept the shots pouring, while all La Mesa could do was play an unfair game of catchup.

Team Marianas' peaked in the last quarter and continued to show no mercy as they held La Mesa down to just six points, while they, on the other hand, made 21 points.

La Mesa's one-man army

See TEAM on Page 27

Undefeated Braves, Phillies lead NSA league

NSA

The Braves Major League team in the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League poses for a photo at the Capitol Hill Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Braves in the Major League and Phillies of the Junior League currently lead the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League played at the Capitol Hill Softball Field.

The Braves' undefeated streak of five straight wins comes after they beat Ol'Aces, 17-1, last Saturday, while the Phillies nabbed their fourth straight win when they defeated Comets Jr., 15-5, last Sunday.

In the Braves' game against Ol'Aces, their pitching staff almost came away with a shutout until a run was scored by

See UNDEFEATED on Page 27